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In purſuance of His Majeſties Order in Council I Licenſe this Narrative to be printed.

SUNDERLAND.

By Virtue of this Order I appoint Dorman Newman Citizen and Stationer of London to print this Narrative.

May 26th 1679. *Miles Prance.*

A TRUE

NARRATIVE

AND

DISCOVERY

Of ſeveral very

REMARKABLE PASSAGES

Relating to the

Horrid Popiſh Plot:

As they fell within the Knowledge of

Mr *MILES PRANCE* of *Covent-Garden*,

GOLDSMITH.

VIZ.

I. His Depoſitions concerning the Plot in General, and a Particular Deſign againſt the Life of His SACRED MAJESTY.

II. The whole Proceedings touching the Murther of Sir *EDMUNDBURY GODFREY*, and the particular Circumſtances thereof.

III. A Conſpiracy to murther the Right Honourable the EARL of *Shaftsbury*.

IV. The Traiterous Intrigues and Immoralities of divers Popiſh Prieſts.

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THE EPISTLE DEDICATORY TO ALL PROTESTANTS.

I *Lookt upon the following* Narrative *as juſtly* due *to the World, whether I reſpected my Self or* You: *for as I am bound to* diſburden *my own Conſcience by a full and Impartial* Diſcovery *of what I know, relating to this horrid, deteſtable* Popiſh Plot, *and to endeavour to render my Acknowledgements as* publick *as the* Evils *wherein I have been involv'd; So I am under the Obligations of* Charity *to Contribute All I can to your* Information *and* Satisfaction, *That both the preſent Age, and Poſterity may take right meaſures of* Popery, *as a thing ſo* deſtructive *to Government and Humane Society in general, and ſo directly oppoſite to all the* Ennobling, *Holy, Humble, Meek and Peaceable Deſigns of* True Chriſtianity, *That the* Better Roman-Catholick *any perſon is, the* worſe man *he becomes, and look how much more* devout, *ſo much the more* dangerous.

For as when the Philiſtins *had once deprived* Sampſon *of his* ſight, *they made him* grinde in their Mill *at their pleaſure; ſo when people* ſhut *their Eyes, and give up themſelves to be led blindfold by the Noſe with a ſtrong conceit, That they are Embarked in a Church that cannot* Err, (*which is the very* Corner ſtone *of the Romiſh Building, and the firſt Principle they infuſe; although in truth, by that* Church *is meant nothing more than the Uſurping, Domineering* Pope, *and his Covetous, Juggling, Self-deſigning* Clergy;) *After, I ſay, they are brought into this ſlaviſh hoodwinkt condition, 'tis no wonder, if they be led forwards by the ſame men, to the moſt wicked Practices, as well as falſe Opinions. For as the Underſtanding is directed, ſo the man, if he have any thing of a zealous temper, or be firm to the Religion he profeſſes, will ſuitably Act, and conſequently may with eaſe be ſeduced to think he does God the beſt ſervice, when indeed he moſt violates all Laws of God, Nature and Man.*

This I may the more firmly avouch, becauſe I muſt acknowledge my ſelf to have been an unhappy Example of it, and therefore although theſe abominable Principles and Practices of the Roman Church *are already excellently laid open by a multitude of Learned men, (for* She *has beſtow'd too many ſad inſtances thereof on the World, and this Nation in particular,) Yet what I have to ſay, being matter of* Fact, *ſo* lately *done, and wherein I my ſelf was ſo nearly concern'd, it may (though never ſo* meanly

 delivered,)

delivered,) poſſibly with ſome be of uſe, more effectually to prevail with them.

The matters herein diſcovered are of a various, but all of them of a moſt black and villainous nature; ſome relate to the Plot in general, wherein you may perceive how far the deſign was ſpread, and how no ſmall Number (to my knowledge) were privy thereunto, and certainly the poiſon muſt be moſt virulent at the Root *when ſo many little* Twiggs *were therewith infected: You will find here (beſides what hath been already diſcovered and proved by others) notice of a curſed hand that durſt reſolve to attempt the Sacred Life of our moſt Gracious Soveraign; a Prince, who beſides the awful ſtamp of Heaven in his Character and Dignity, and the dread Life-guard of Sacred Precepts,* Not to touch the Lords Anointed, *carries in His Perſon ſuch charms of Sweetneſs, Goodneſs, Clemency and Indulgence, as might ſecure him from violence even amongſt Heathens and Savages; but no Quality or Innocence is Armour of proof againſt a Popiſh Knife; no Virtue ſufficient to guard any from the Aſſaſſinations of a thorow-pac'd Jeſuited Roman-Catholick.*

And certainly the Murther of that Loyal Proteſtant-Magiſtrate, Sir Edmundbury Godfrey, *was a thing ſo helliſh in it ſelf, and yet through Gods Over-ruling Providence, ſo very conſiderable in its influences to this poor Nations preſervation, That I am confident it will be no mean ſatisfaction to all good Proteſtants to be aſcertained of all (even the ſmalleſt)* Circumſtances *relating thereunto; which as far as came within my knowledge, I have here freely and faithfully ſet forth, without adding a word beyond the Truth, out of prejudice, or any ſiniſter end; or concealing any thing for my own Reputation; For though to* commit Sin *be the greateſt of* ſhame, *yet ingenuouſly and penitently to* confeſs *it, to the Glory of God, and warning of our Neighbour, is no diſgrace, but the greateſt* Honour, *and the* beſt *ſervice a ſeduced Criminal can be capable of, or able to perform.*

Nor was their other Conſpiracy againſt the Life of that Noble Lord, the Right Honourable the Earl of Shaftsbury *herein likewiſe ſet forth, leſs wicked and barbarous on their part in the* deſign, *though* fruſtrated *by the* Providence *of God, who I truſt will continually bring to nought all the miſchievous Counſels of theſe Romiſh* Achitophels, *and caſt the cruel Devices of ſuch Aſſaſſinates on their own heads.*

As for that part which concerns the Ill Lives *of ſeveral of their Prieſts, the ſame is not inſerted out of any* Spleen *or Ill will to their Perſons, (for to ſeveral of them in the Courſe of my* Trade *I have been beholden, as far as they were my Cuſtomers) but to give our* Engliſh *World a Taſte of the practiſes of the Leading men of that Apoſtate Church, and to perſwade, if poſſible, Lay-Romaniſts, to conſider what*

kind

kind of Persons they are, on whose Sleeves they so blindly pin their Faith, *and to whose Conduct they Trust in a matter of such unspeakable Importance, as the Salvation or Eternal Destruction of their Souls: And this I the rather Recommend, and hope may be prevalent with* others, *because it had some Weight with my self; for next to Reflections on the odious* Plot *they were Carrying on, and the vile* Murther *they had Engaged me in, The certain knowledge of the close Hypocrisie or gross Prophaness and* lewd Lives *of their Ghostly Fathers (at least most of those I had the unhappiness to be intimately Acquainted with, which were not a few, though I accuse not All in that particular) had a strong Influence to awaken my Thoughts to quit their Communion; As conceiving that must be a bad Cause which us'd such wicked Means to support it, and that it was no way likely* That *should be the true Religion, which had no better Influence on the Conversations of those who were its* Priests *and chief Promoters.*

The far greatest part of this whole Narrative hath already been Attested upon Oath: *As for the rest that is therein asserted, as on my own Knowledge, I shall at any time be ready to Justifie and prove the same: And what I received by Information from others, is every where so Expressed, with the Reasons and Circumstances inducing the Credit I gave thereunto. For as I was Educated amongst them from my Childhood, so I had a great Acquaintance and Familiarity with many of the Fathers and most zealous persons of that party about the Town, having been several years her Majesties Goldsmith, and the chief of my Trade depending on Priests and others of the Roman Catholick Perswasion.*

The reason why I presume to Dedicate this mean Narrative to so great a Body as all You worthy Protestants *in General, seemeth to me Just, because* sincere, *and* excusable, *because in some sort* necessary; *I make you as it were All parties to these Presents, not only that there may be so many* Living Witnesses against me, *if ever either there should be any wilful untruth found therein, Or that I should fall back, (which God forbid) from that pure Religion which you profess, and I most cordially though lately have Embraced; But also more especially thereby to Engage your* united Prayers *to God, as well for my* Perseverance *and growth in Christian Knowledge, as for my* Preservation *against the Malice of those restless Enemies, from whom I am to expect the* worst *that* Raging Revenge *can suggest, or* cruel Malice *Execute; partly for my Relinquishment of them, but much more for discloſing some of their Proceedings; Wherein already they have not been wanting, for besides Lies and Slanders industriously spread, to vilifie and make me odious, and the depriving me (as far as in them lies) of the Means of a Livelihood, I was of late credibly informed of a resolved Design against my*

Life,

Life, and that three perſons had dogged me for ſome time for that purpoſe: But the Lord is my God, of whom then ſhall I be afraid? *To his infinite* Protection I *reſign my ſelf, and next under him to* that *of his* Vicegerent, *from whoſe moſt* gracious Majeſty, *as likewiſe from the Noble Lords of his moſt Honourable Council, as well as the Right Honourable the Houſe of Peers,* I *have upon all occaſions found all juſt Encouragement, and very great* Indulgence, *which with a thankful heart* I *deſire to commemorate, and publiſh for the Encouragement of others.*

The Romaniſts (*eſpecially the* Jeſuits *and* Prieſts, *who ſway the reſt at their pleaſure*) *are a moſt vigilant and unwearied ſort of People to propagate their falſe Doctrines, and ſpread their Tyranny*; I *ſpeak it Experimentally, who have had the advantage in a great meaſure to know them*; *no Defeat can* daunt *them, nor ſcarce any Diſappointments* diſcourage *them*: *no ſooner is one Plot diſcovered, but they preſently lay another. For 'tis a Rule that their Prieſts injoyn their people to believe,* I *may* I *am confident ſay of moſt, as firmly as their Creed, That their Religion ſhall infallibly one day or other be reſtored and eſtabliſhed again in* England; *and being thus verily perſwaded, they bear up under all Miſcarriages, and ſtill vigorouſly purſue the* main deſign, *though in* New Methods, *and with different Inſtruments. And therefore it will certainly concern Proteſtants to be as carefull and Active to prevent their Deſigns, and preſerve their own Religion and Lives, as the other are to deſtroy Both: you have now an Opportunity put into your hands to cruſh the Cockatrices Egge: O may you all in your ſeveral places and ſtations improve it with Wiſdom, and with Courage, and with Integrity: For if the Neck of their Deſign be not now throughly broken, if Popery be not now Ham-ſtrung in* England; *If the Serpents Head be not bruiz'd, and the Vitals deſtroyed, it may juſtly be feared, that it will Revive again, and then the Plot will be only laid to ſleep, and not prevented, and the latter end prove worſe than the beginning.*

But who am I, to adviſe ſo great and ſo wiſe a Body? May the God of Wiſdom adviſe you and direct you, and protect you in his Truth and in his Fear. And ſo begging all your Prayers on my behalf, I ſhall conclude, and ſubſcribe my ſelf

Covent-Garden,
May 26. 1679.

A Hearty Well-wiſher to the Proteſtant
Church, and the Welfare of the
King and People,

Miles Prance.

A NARRATIVE OF The whole PROCEEDINGS touching the MURTHER OF Sir *EDMUNDBURY GODFREY*; AND Several other Paſſages relating to the Horrid Popiſh Plot, Which came within the Knowledge of MILES PRAUNCE, Of St. *Giles's in the Fields*, in the County of *Middleſex*, GOLDSMITH.

Miles Praunce was from his Infancy bred up in that Perſwaſion, which calls it ſelf the Roman Catholick Religion, having ſeveral very near Relations engaged therein; and being under the ſtrong Prejudices of Education, and continual Incitements of the Prieſts, was very zealous for advancing that Church; being made believe, That in order to that end, no means ought to be avoided or eſteemed unlawful.

He had, by long Converſation, contracted as large and intimate an Acquaintance both with the Prieſts and Jeſuits reſiding in *England*, (eſpecially about *London*) as alſo with Perſons of Quality of the Romiſh Profeſſion, as any man of his Circumſtances was capable of.

He doth well know, that for divers years laſt paſt, it hath been a General Opinion and Expectation amongſt Papiſts, That their Religion ſhould in ſome ſhort time be publickly Re-eſtabliſhed in *England*. And this vain Conceit their Prieſts did always very induſtriouſly nouriſh in them, but with words more open and peremptory here of late, than before: ſo that he, as well as others, had for ſeveral years, a general Intimation, That ſome great thing was ſhortly to be done for the Roman Catholick Cauſe, and that the Redemption (as they were wont to call it) was drawing nigh. But the firſt direct and particular Information he received of the Plot, or any formed Deſigne and Reſolution to take Arms, was near two years ago, on the occaſion, and in the manner following, *viz.*

One Mr. *Towneley* of *Townley* in *Lancaſhire*, a Gentleman of a very conſiderable Eſtate, coming up to *London* with his two Sons, in order to carrying them over to *Doway*, there to be brought up: For that is the general practice of the Popiſh Gentry, to ſend over their Children thither, being made believe, that we have no good method of Learning in our Engliſh Schools or Univerſities; but that the onely grand Maſters of Education in the world, are the Jeſuits. By which means, not onely our Nation is ſcandaliz'd, and the Wealth thereof privately drain'd away, but alſo it comes to paſs, that the Children of ſo many Noble and Conſiderable Families, being bred up from their tender years wholly under their Tuition, they have the better opportunities to inſtil Traiterous and Diſloyal Principles into their minds, plant in them an endleſs hatred againſt the Proteſtant Religion, and in general, gain ſuch an Aſcendant over them, that as they were their Maſters and Tutors in their Youth, ſo they behave themſelves as their Governours all their lives afterwards: the Eſtates of many Popiſh Gentry being as abſolutely at the Prieſts diſpoſe, as at their own.

own. Theſe things he knows to be true, and of very pernicious Conſequence; and therefore hopes 'tis no unſeaſonable digreſſion to mention them.

This Mr. *Townley* coming to Town on this occaſion, did likewiſe bring up with him his two Brothers to keep him Company, and took Lodgings at one *Airies* houſe in *Drury-lane*, where *John Fenwick* a notorious Jeſuit and Arch-traitor, now in cuſtody, then had his Reſidence: where, after they had continued ſome ſhort time, the ſaid Mr. *Townley* and one of his Brothers went over to *Doway* with the two Lads, and left the other here; who, in the abſence of his Brothers, declared very often to Mr. *Praunce*'s Wives Brother, and to one *Adamſon* a Watch-maker, That when his Brothers came back from *Flanders*, they expected to receive Commiſſions from the Lord *Bellaſis* and other Catholick Lords concern'd, for the raiſing of men to carry on the Catholick Cauſe. And this his Brother and the ſaid *Adamſon* ſeveral times told again to Mr. *Praunce* at *Pedley*'s houſe in *Vere-ſtreet*, where was kept a frequent Club, conſiſting of none but Papiſts.

That during the time that the Duke of *Buckingham*, the Earl of *Shaftsbury*, the Lord *Wharton*, and Lord *Salisbury*, were confined in the Tower, one Mr. *Keighly*, a perſon (reputed) of good Eſtate, was pleas'd in diſcourſe to expreſs his joy and ſatisfaction for ſuch their Confinement: For, ſaid he, *Now is the time for the Promoting of Catholick Religion*; (meaning Popery;) *and if his Royal Highneſs be but ſure, and will follow the Buſineſs cloſely*, (which he ſaid Catholicks had good grounds to hope he would) *and we can but ſtrike whilſt the Iron is hot, and not loſe opportunities, I do not doubt but our Religion may ſpeedily be ſettled in* England: *for no juncture of time can appear more fair or favourable for the Buſineſs than the preſent.*

That about a year ago, being in Company with one *Singleton* a Popiſh Prieſt, at the houſe of one *Hall* a Cook in *Ivy-lane*, *London*, the ſaid Prieſt, in the preſence of Mr. *Praunce* and the ſaid *Hall*, did ſay theſe words following: *That he hoped he ſhould be ſettled in a Pariſh-Church before a Twelvemonth came about; for he did not fear but that the Catholick Religion*

ligion would raign in England: *and to advance it, he would not make any more matter to Stab Forty Parliament-men, than to eat his Dinner:* he being then ſitting at Dinner with his Knife in his hand. Concerning this zealous Gentlemans pranks, we ſhall have occaſion to ſpeak more hereafter.

That one Mr. *Ridley* a Chirurgion, living at the Houſe that was late the Lord *Baltamore*'s in *Wild-ſtreet*, walking in *Wild*-Garden, declared, That he expected to be a Chirurgion to the Catholick Army in *England*; and that he hoped the Lord *Bellaſis*, whom he knew was one chief perſon to Command it, would much ſtand his friend in that concern. And ſince the Diſcovery of the Plot, upon Mr. *Praunce*'s information, there was a Popiſh Prieſt, one *Fincham* by name, being a Prieſt to the Lady *Saveil*, taken in the ſaid Mr. *Ridleys* Houſe, where he was ſheltered; but ſince, by the mediation of good friends, he is, as 'tis ſaid, ſent beyond the Seas.

That in the Month of *Auguſt*, 1678. Mr. *Praunce* having occaſion to write to a friend in the Countrey, but not knowing certainly how to ſend, went to one Mr. *Paſton*, whom he had ſome reaſons to believe could inform him therein; he lodged then at one *Bamber*'s a Taylor in *Duke-ſtreet*, and had great reſort of Jeſuites and Prieſts to his Chamber: after he had ſatisfied him in the particular matter he came to him about, they immediately fell into diſcourſe of publick Affairs, and the intereſt of Catholick Religion; and he bid Mr. *Praunce* not to fear any thing, for all would ſuddenly be well: for in the firſt place, he ſaid, *It was true, the King was a great Heretick, but the Lord* Bellaſis, *the Lord* Arundel, *the Lord* Powis, *and Lord* Peters, (theſe four Noblemen he well remembers he named) *would have a gallant Army for the Depoſing*, or *Diſpoſing* (he cannot now certainly ſay which of thoſe words he uſed, but is ſure it was one of them) *of the King, and utter ſubverſion of all the Proteſtants; and then the Catholick Religion ſhould be eſtabliſht and flouriſh in this Nation.* And he then farther ſaid, *That the Lords had already given out Commiſſions to divers Gentlemen in the Country for raiſing their Troops*; and he named ſeveral of them; amongſt whom he well remembers one was *Mr. Talbot* of *Longford*; another, Sir *Henry Bedingfield* of *Oxborough-*

borough-hall in *Norfolk*, and a third Mr. *Stoner*, who lives within four or five miles of *Kingſton* upon *Thames*: others he mentioned, whoſe names he does not ſo well retain.

7. That about eight or ten days before *Michaelmaſs*, 1678. he had a more clear diſcovery of the Deſign in hand, That they intended to leavy War, to ſubvert the Government, *&c.* for being at the Chamber of Father *Ireland* the Jeſuite, ſince Executed for Treaſon, he lodging then in *Ruſſel-ſtreet*, where were likewiſe preſent *John Fenwick* and *John Grove*; the ſaid *Ireland* did declare, *That there would VERY SHORTLY be Fifty thouſand men in Arms.* At which Mr. *Praunce*, as ſurpriſed, demanded of him, where they would have them, and what they were to do? to which he anſwered, *We muſt have them ſpeedily to ſettle our Religion here, or elſe all will be ruined.* Then Mr. *Praunce* inquired who ſhould command them? to which *Fenwick* undertook to make anſwer, and ſaid, *That they ſhould be Commanded by the Lord* Arundel, *Lord* Bellaſis, *Lord* Powis, *and others.* Whereupon, Mr. *Praunce* apprehending the fatal miſchiefs and diſtractions of a Civil War, ſaid to them, *What then ſhall we poor Tradeſmen do?* the ſame *Fenwick* replyed, *You for your part of all men need not fear a Trade, for you* (being a Goldſmith) *will have enough in your way by Church-work.* And ſeveral ſuch diſcourſes then paſſed between them, whereby he plainly underſtood, that there was a grand Plot, and near to be put in execution, and that they were very confident of the ſucceſs.

8. That ſoon after this, the ſaid *Grove* came to Mr. *Praunce*'s ſhop to buy two Silver-ſpoons for a Chriſtening where he was to be Godfather; and taking occaſion to ſpeak of their laſt recited diſcourſe at Father *Ireland*'s, Mr. *Praunce* askt him what Office he the ſaid *Grove* was to have in the Catholick Army: but he declined to anſwer directly, and at laſt ſaid, *He did not know AS YET.* Then being askt again, who were to govern this intended Army, he named the Lord *Bellaſis*, the Lord *Arundel*, the Lord *Powis*, and the Lord *Peters*; and ſaid, that they had already Commiſſions for that purpoſe.

9. The Prieſts themſelves were not onely the grand Contrivers of this deſperate Deſign, with Counſel and Encou-

ragement, but likewiſe intended to be actually concern'd in the Butcheries, as well as the Laiety : for very near the ſame time , Mr. *le Fevre* a Prieſt, whom Mr. *Praunce* was well acquainted with , as having ſold him ſeveral Chalices, Crewets, Baſons, Oil-boxes for Extreme Unction , and ſuch-like Utenſils , came to his Shop to buy a ſecond-hand Silver-hilt for a Sword ; whereupon, he askt him what he meant to do therewith, for he had a good Sword already ? the ſaid *le Fevre* anſwered,there were times coming on,wherein Catholicks would have good occaſion for Weapons , and therefore he would be ſure to be provided, by getting another ſpecial Sword, and would have ſuch an Hilt to it.

10. Happening one day to ſee Mr. *Moor*, that belongs to the Duke of *Norfolk* , riding in the ſtreets upon a very brave Horſe, meeting him ſoon after in the Court at *Somerſet*-Houſe, Mr. *Praunce* was ſaying what a gallant Beaſt he ſaw him mounted upon lately : whereupon , the ſaid Mr. *Moor* wiſhed that he had ten Thouſand of them ; but ſaid, that he hoped in a very ſhort time we ſhould have Ten thouſand as good Horſes, and mounted with brave men, well Arm'd and Accoutred , for the advancing of the Catholick Cauſe : which he ſpoke openly, and in a braving manner , as if he were not afraid to own the thing, nor cared who heard him.

11. In like manner , and much about the ſame time , he heard Mr. *Meſſinger* , Gentleman of the Horſe to the Lord *Arundel*,boaſt , That he doubted not but to ſee the Catholick Religion flouriſh ere long throughout *England*, and Hereticks to be rooted out : for he hoped to ſee a gallant Army one of theſe days, to effect ſo glorious a work. The ſame man was afterwards engaged in the horrid Deſigns of Murthering the Kings Sacred Majeſty , and alſo of the Right Honourable the Earl of *Shaftsbury* ; of which a particular Account is herein afterwards given.

After God, by a Miracle of Mercy to theſe Nations , had been pleaſed to give ſome Diſcovery of the Plot , their inſolence was little daunted , and their malice encreaſed ; contriving new ways to deſtroy all that oppoſed them , and to involve us in Blood and Confuſion.---For,

12. When the Order came forth for tendring the Oaths of Alle-

Allegiance and Supremacy to all *Roman Catholicks*, one Mr. *Laurence*, an Apothecary in *Drury-lane*, came to Mr. *Praunces* Houſe, to borrow a Book which had in it the forms of the ſaid Oaths, ſeeming very much diſſatisfied and offended about it; and after ſeveral Complaints, and Murmurings againſt Authority, did ſpeak theſe words ---*I wiſh with all my heart, half the Parliament were poyſoned, for they will ruine us all*, meaning all Papiſts. Now how exceeding dangerous may a perſon, continuing under ſuch deſperate Principles, and of that Trade, be to the Nation, in deſtroying privately, ſuch as ſhall oppoſe their Helliſh Deſigns? for 'tis reaſonably to be feared, that he that had mad zeal and malice enough to wiſh half the Members of that moſt Honourable Aſſembly poyſoned, will ſcarce ſtick to try a piece of his skill upon any particular Heretick or Hereticks, when the Intereſt of their Bloody Church ſhall command, or proſpect of conſiderable gain invite thereunto.

13. That about a fortnight before St. *Thomas*'s day laſt, Mr. *Praunce* having an intimate Acquaintance with the Lord *Arundel* of *Warder*'s Butler, he told Mr. *Praunce*, (but with a great obligation of Secrecy,) That the before-mentioned Mr. *Meſſinger* (his Lords Gentleman of the Horſe) was to Kill the King, and to have a vaſt Reward, if he eſcaped with his Life, as 'twas well hoped, the buſineſs was ſo neatly contrived, that he might: But however, if he ſhould miſcarry or ſuffer in or for the Attempt, then he having appointed before-hand what Friends ſhould have the ſaid Reward, it ſhould be diſtributed faithfully to them by the ſaid Lord *Arundel*, *Powis*, and the reſt of the Lords that were in the Plot. Whereupon, within a day or two after, *Praunce* meeting with the ſaid *Meſſinger* in *Lincolns-Inne-fields*, after ſome previous and preparatory diſcourſe, asked him; *Why he would kill the King?* At which queſtion he appeared ſtrangely ſurprized and confounded, as wondering how he ſhould come to know of ſuch his traiterous Intention: But Mr. *Praunce* ſeeming not willing to give him any occaſion of fear, he, recollecting himſelf, ſaid, *Who told you of it?* To which the other anſwered, That their Butler intimated ſo much to him, as a Friend; whereupon he onely ſaid, No, no, we are off of

that

that thing now: giving him to underſtand as if they had taken ſome new Meaſures. Then Mr. *Praunce* took leave of him, who ſeemed much troubled at the Diſcovery: and after he was gone a few paces from him, call'd him back again, and ask'd him to drink with him; but he told him, that his buſineſs required haſte, and ſo avoided going with him. Then he adjur'd him not to ſpeak of that buſineſs to any body living. But afterwards the poor Butler came to *Praunce*'s ſhop, and told him, That he had received great Anger, and was like to be undone, becauſe he had told him what Mr. *Meſſinger* was to have done.

14. In the ſame ſtreet where Mr. *Praunce* lives, *viz. Princes-ſtreet* in *Covent-garden*, there dwells one *GROVE* a Papiſt, (Nephew to *John Grove*, lately executed for deſigning to murther the King) who is ſtill, at the writing hereof, ſuffered to teach School there. This perſon, after the Condemnation of his Uncle, ſaid very confidently, That there was no ſuch Plot at all as was pretended, for it was onely a Plot of the Proteſtants: And to vilifie the Kings Evidence, though moſt plain and pregnant, (according to the uſual method of all Papiſts, who make it their grand buſineſs to throw upon them all imaginable Scandals) ſaid, That they were all Rogues that ſwore againſt his Uncle. Whereupon Mr. *Praunce* (of whom he then had no miſtruſt, but lookt upon him as firm to their Party) ſaid, But then what think you of the Fifty thouſand men that were ſuddenly to be raiſed? which to my knowledge he knew of: for I well remember he told me of it. Which plain Argument of his Uncles Treaſon from Mr. *Praunce*, the ſaid *Grove* not being able to deny, ſaid, *That poſſibly his Uncle might ſpeak that in jeſt.* Such ſorry Evaſions will they make uſe of to out-face Truth, bolſter up their villanous Practices, and make ignorant and credulous people believe, That all their Traitors are Saints, or at leaſt Martyrs.

Further Particulars which have fallen within the ſaid *Miles Praunce*'s Cognizance touching the Plot in general, (though ſeveral material ones there are) we ſhall not here mention, as being not yet fit to be publickly divulg'd; but proceed to the Murther of Sir *Edmund-bury Godfrey*, in which Mr. *Praunce* was unhappily concern'd.

THE

THE FULL

DISCOVERY

OF THE

Manner and Circumstances

OF

Sr. Edmundbury Godfrey's

MURTHER.

1. THe design of Murthering this Innocent and Never-to-be-forgotten Gentleman was laid, and some Attempts made to Execute it before it was at all Communicated unto Mr. *Prance*, for he hath since heard by *Girald* and *Kelly* (Irish Popish Priests concerned in the Murther) and others, that once, some small time before they acquainted him with it; a Gentleman passing by *Sommerset-House*, that was very like Sir *Edmondbury* in Stature, Phisiognomy and Habit; some of them mistook, and Complemented him as Sr. *Edmondbury*, but the Stranger denying the Name, or that he was any such Person, they were so confident, as to think he did it out of Caution, to avoid them. And therefore peremptorily told him he was Sr. *Edmundbury Godfrey*, which he as positively denying, they made some attempts to push him into the House, but at last perceiving their mistake, Released him, pretending it was only to have drank a Bottle of Wine with him. Likewise they said that once or oftner, they had dogged him into the Fields, and out parts of the Town, but being in the Day time, could meet with no opportunity to dispatch him.

2. On *Sunday*, wanting but a Day of a Fortnight before the Murther committed, coming from the Queens Chappel, the said *Girald* and *Kelly* together with *Robert Green* Cushion-man to the Chappel, *Laurence Hill*, Doctor *Goddin*'s Man (which Doctor is Treasurer of the Chappel) and Mr. *Prance* went (as commonly they did every Sunday) to the Plough-Alehouse by the *Watergate* (as they call it, that is the furthermost Gate or Passage going down out of the *Strand* to the Waterside) of *Sommerset-House*; Where after some common friendly Discourse and Talke of the Plot

which was then begun to be discovered. *Girald* the Priest, in a familiar plausible way askt *Prance* if he did not know Sr. *Edmundbury Godfrey*, who told him he had heard of him, and seen him; but had no particular Acquaintance with him. Then he askt if he did not know what a bitter Persecutor he was to Catholicks, and a particular Enemy to the Queens Servants (which 'tis supposed he urged because *Prance* was one of them:) And now of late (said he) he has examined People against us, and got Depositions to fix odious Crimes and Scandals upon us and our Religion; To which *Prance* answered that he heard he had lately taken some Examinations concerning the Plot, but did not know the particulars, though he understood there was a great deal of Noise abroad about it, and heard that Mr. *Ireland* and others last Night were taken upon it. The other told him that the said Sr. *Edmundbury* was so desperate an Enemy, and had done such things that if he were not taken off, the Catholicks would be generally ruined, and therefore it was absolutely necessary for the Glory of God, and the good of the Church that it be done. And if we can find an Opportunity to do it, we shall have a very good Reward from no worse Man than the Lord *Bellasis*, and therefore (saith the said *Girald* to *Prance*) looking upon you as a good Catholick and that will not deny so good a Service to the Church; we would have you be aiding and assisting to us in it. This was the very Effect, and as neer as he can remember the Words of his first Discourse.

To which, being surprised with Horror at so unexpected and Cruel a Motion, *Prance* answered, no, he could not be concerned, nor would be Guilty of any Mans Blood for a World. For Murther was a greivous and most mortal Sin. The Priest replied, Alas, this is no Sin, but a Work of Charity. There is no Murther in this Case, it is for the Glory of God and the good of the Church, and therefore you ought to do it. With several other Words to that Purpose.

In which wicked Persuasions, *Kelly* the other Priest likewise joyned with him, affirming the same, and highly encouraging *Prance* and the rest present (whom it seems they had Engaged before) thereunto, as a meritorious Work. Yet still *Prance* told them he could not treacherously kill any Man, for he was not able to force his Mind to such an Action; *Girald* said, he desired him to be no further concerned than he would be himself, and that he would make nothing of killing twenty Hereticks in such a Case, and that there was no Danger in it, for it might easily be effected and no body the Wiser. Several such Words and Discourses passed.

ſed. At laſt they told him he ſhould not be troubled to do the Buſineſs, but ſhould only ſtand at a diſtance, and *that* they were ſure he would not deny to do, for, by their very declaring the Buſineſs, he was already as far concerned as that came to, unleſs he would betray them, which if he did, he was certainely Damned, nor ſhould eſcape long here without Revenge.

Theſe, to the beſt of his Memory were the ſubſtance of all their Arguments to him. Nor did they aſſign any particular reaſon of their Malice, only that Sr. *Edmundbury Godfry* was a buſy Man, and was going about to ruine all the Catholicks in *England*, and that it was neceſſary to deſtroy him, elſe they ſhould be all undone. In fine, ſo importunate they were, that by theſe curſed Perſuaſions proceeding from Prieſts whom he had been taught to Reverence, and receive their Words as Oracles; *Prance* was prevailed with, (with hearty Sorrow, Shame and Contrition, he deſires to acknowledg it) to keep their bloody Councels, not daring both on a Religious and Temporal Account to reveal the ſame, fearing as well Damnation in the next World, if he ſhould diſcover it, as Ruine in this, being one of her Majeſties Servants, and ſo great a part or rather his whole Livelyhood depending on her and other Catholicks. With whom theſe revengful Prieſts by their Intereſt and ſome falſe Informations might eaſily undo him, beſides the Danger he lay under of a private Stab or the like Miſchief from them.

Then they acquainted him that ſome others were engaged in the Buſineſs, beſides thoſe then preſent, naming *Henry Berry* Porter to the Queens Majeſty at the upper Court Gate, one *Lewſon* a Prieſt, and *Philip Vernatti*, who did belong to the Lord *Bellaſis*, heretofore Pay-maſter at *Tangier*, and much indebted to the ſaid Lord. Who together with *Gerrard* and *Kelly* (as tis believed) were the firſt that were ingaged in the Buſineſs, and that the ſaid *Vernatti* might be induced thereto by ſome Promiſe, That his Debt ſhould be remitted, and further Rewards promiſed.

They likewiſe ſaid there ſhould be one more in it, whoſe Name (as they then told it) he doth not remember. And as he ſince underſtands, there were ſeveral others concerned. So deſperately were the Original Contrivers ſet upon this good Gentlemans Murther; That to effect it throughly they laid ſeveral diſtinct Plots, and Imployed diverſe Seperate Agents unknown to each other. But thoſe above mentioned were all that he then knew of for his part, or that they diſcovered to him.

3. In the Week following, ſome of them met with him ſeveral times at the ſame Houſe, and appointed to meet the next Sunday, which accordingly they did: Walking *immediately from Prayers* at the

the Chappel down to the Water-ſide, where they preſently fell into Conſultation about the manner of effecting this Horrid Murther. But did not there come to any Reſolution, but went from thence to the ſaid *Plough* to drink, where they concluded to dogg or watch Sr. *Edmundbury* the next Week, and that whoever of them could firſt ſee him in a Convenient Place, ſhould give the reſt notice.

4. Purſuant to this Reſolve, as he ſince underſtood, *Green* and ſome of the reſt were at Sr. *Edmundbury*'s Houſe, and endeavoured to watch him, but as appears, could not light on a fit Opportunity. They met ſometimes in the former part of that Week, but *Prance* never concerned himſelf to go to his Houſe, or elſewhere, to look for, or after him; But on Saturday the 12*th* of *October* in the Morning *Girald*, *Green* and *Hill*, went forth to obſerve his Motions, and *Kelly* the other Prieſt who lodged in *Sommerſet-Houſe*, and knew of their going, came about nine a Clock in the Forenoon to *Prance*'s Houſe, to acquaint him therewith, and charge him to be at home in a readineſs; The firſt three went near Sr. *Edmundbury Godfrey*'s, and whilſt two ſtaid ſome little way off, *Hill* went up to his Houſe, and inquired for Sr. *Edmundbury*, and underſtanding he was within, Spake with him, and pretended ſome fained Buſineſs as 'tis believed, but not certainly known what it was, and ſo he returned to his Companions (This Account He relates as he had it from themſelves, *viz. Girald* and *Green*, afterwards, being not preſent then himſelf, but at home as aforeſaid.)

5. About ten or eleven a Clock Sr. *Edmundbury* came forth all alone (as his manner was, for, being a Plain Stout Gentleman, he never or very ſeldom went abroad attended with any Servant, which they very well knew.) They waiting for him privately, dogged him to ſeveral Places, up and down all the reſt of the Day, as his Buſineſs led him, till about ſix or ſeven a Clock at Night he came to St. *Clements*, and went into a great Houſe there, where it is thought he Supped. Then *Green* left the other two, and came to *Prance*'s Shop, but he not beeing at home, but at a publique Houſe hard by, he ſent for him, and informed him that they had now ſet Sr. *Edmundbury* in St. *Clements* (but the particular Houſe he did not name or declare to him, ſo as he might know whoſe it was,) but only told him that he muſt make all the haſt he could down to *Sommerſet-Houſe* to the Water-Gate, where he ſhould find *Kelly* the Prieſt and *Berry* the Porter; Accordingly *Prance* left his Company, went thither, and found them walking in the Yard, where they

three

three ſometimes walking, and ſometimes ſitting on the Bench, continued till about nine of the Clock; And then Sr. *Edmundbury* as it appears came forth of the ſaid Place by St. *Clements*, and preſently *Hill* came runing away before, up Street to give Notice that he was coming. And ordered that for to wheadle him in, two ſhould pretend to be a Quarrelling, and having thus ſaid, the ſaid *Hill* goes up again to the Water-Gate, and ſtood there to expect his coming by, and intice him in. In the mean time *Kelly* the Prieſt and *Berry* began a ſeeming Quarrel, but made no great Noiſe; and Sr. *Edmundbury* coming along the *Strand*, juſt as he was paſſing by the Water-Gate, *Hill* (who well knew Sr. *Edmundbury*, and Sr. *Edmundbury* him, as having traded with him for Coals) ſteps up to him as in a great deal of Haſte, and ſays, for God ſake, Sr. *Edmundbury Godfrey* be pleaſed to come in, for here are two Men a Quarrelling, and I am afraid there will be Blood ſhed between them. Pough, Pough, ſaid Sr. *Edmundbury*, refuſing at firſt to trouble himſelf, but *Hill* ſtill crying out he feared there might be a great deal of Harm done, and how glad he was to light on his Worſhip, who being a Magiſtrate, his Preſence would preſently quiet them, and therefore intreated him again juſt to ſtep in; The Gallant Gentlemans good Nature, was ſuch, not ſuſpecting any Harm, but deſigning to do an Act of Charity, and to endeavour that the Peace might be kept according to his Office, that he was prevailed with by the Treacherous Perſwaſions of the Aſſaſſinate, to turn into the Trap they had laid for him.

6. *Hill* entred the Gate firſt, Sr. *Edmundbury* follows him and immediately behind him, *Girald* and *Green*; they coming down as ſoon as they had paſt *Prance* (who ſtood cloſe up to the Wall unſeen) went forwards towards the Water-Gate, to obſerve any that ſhould come that way, and *Bury* then went to ſecure the Stairs and Paſſage by the Chappel. But firſt he and *Kelly* were the pretended Quarrellers, and ſtood juſt at the end of the Raile by the Queens Stables, and as Sr. *Edmundbury* went down, *Green* who walkt juſt behind him, having in readineſs a large twiſted Handkerchif, on a ſudden threw the ſame about his Neck, and immediately they all fower, *viz. Girald*, *Kelly*, *Green* and the ſaid *Hill* fell upon him, ſecured his Sword, pull'd him down, throtled him, ſo that he could neither Cry out, nor Speak, drew him behind the Rail and gave him many violent Punches on the Breaſt with their Knees, and having as they ſuppoſed diſpatcht him, and that he had lain ſtill for a while, fearing he was not yet quite dead, *Girald* the Prieſt would have run his Sword through him, but the

reſt would not yeild to that, for they ſaid then it would be diſcovered by the Blood, ſo that at their Perſwaſion he put up his Sword again, and did not do it; however to make ſure worke, *Green* got upon him, and punching him with all his Force on the Breaſt with his Knee, wrung his Neck round; The firſt Attaque, *viz. Green's* flinging the twiſted Handkerchif about his Neck, and their falling upon him, *Prance* Saw, but then Immediately went to the Water-Gate, and as for the reſt of the Tranſactions, he had it from all their Mouths afterwards, and particularly as to the wringing of his Neck, *Green* told of it himſelf, for he boaſted of it; and the bloody minded Prieſt *Girald*, ſeeing him Dead, ſaid theſe Words: *Well if we could not have inticed him in here, I reſolved I would have followed him, down* Hartſ-horn Lane *that leads to his own Houſe, and there would have run him through with my own Hand.*

But it was otherwiſe ordered by the Hand of God, who though he ſometimes ſuffers wicked Men to perpetrate their barbarous Deſigns, yet he often over-rules them ſo far as that they themſelves againſt their Intentions, contribute to the Diſcovery, or brings by infinite Wiſdom and Power, Good out of Evil, and ſerves the Intereſts of his Church and People even by the Cruelties of their implacable Enemies. For had they killed him in another Place, or diſpoſed of his Body in another manner, 'tis poſſible it had never been found out, and in that Caſe, or if they had not been ſuffered to be ſo far Infatuated by the Devil as to Murther Him; 'tis probable their Helliſh Plot had never been ſufficiently taken notice of, till felt in the direful Effects, ſo that Sr. *Edmundbury* muſt juſtly be ſtiled, *the King and Kingdoms Martyr*, ſince his Death (though in it ſelf moſt horrid and deplorable) was yet through the infinite Mercy of God, a means to preſerve the Lives of many Thouſands.

7. Having ſtaid at the Gate about a Quarter of an Hour, in all which time no body offered to come in that way, *Prance* went down to them, and likewiſe *Berry* came from his Poſt at the Stairs, and then they all ſet upon removing the Body, which they carried in at a Door right againſt the place where he was Murthered, and ſo up a Pair of Stairs that goes into a long Entry leading into the upper Court by the Coach-Houſes, and then into Doctor *Goddin's* Lodgings, who was Treaſurer of the Chappel to the Queen, where the ſaid *Hill* lived, and did all the Doctors Buſineſs, being the firſt Door on the left Hand in the ſaid Entry, *Hill* going before and opening the Door; Then they carried him up five or ſix Steps, into a little Room on the Right Hand, where they ſet the Body with his Back leaning againſt a

Bed

Bed, and ſo leaving *Hill* there as being at home, the reſt departed, and diſperſed themſelves, every Man to his own Dwelling; getting home about ten of the Clock, or between ten and eleven.

8. The Body lay in that Room, Saturday-Night, Sunday all Day and Night, and until Munday at Night, and then *Prance* coming from Home about ten of the Clock down to *Hill*'s, to know if they had diſpoſed thereof, or how they would do it, becauſe he had heard nothing from them; *Hill* told him that he and the reſt had that Evening a little before, carried him out to a Room croſs the upper Court of *Sommerſet-Houſe*, for fear Notice ſhould be taken of their keeping the other Room ſo long private, or that ſome body ſhould have occaſion to go into it, and diſcover him; then Mr. *Prance* went to the *Plough Ale-Houſe*, where he found *Green*, *Girald* and *Kelly*, and preſently *Hill* came thither alſo, and *Hill* with a dark Lanthorn went with the other three *&c.* to ſhew Mr. *Prance* where the Body lay, which was in the ſaid Room in the upper Court upon the Ground, covered with a Cloth over the Head, but his Sword was not there, but ſtill kept hidden in *Hill*'s Houſe; So having ſeen the Body, every Man went home.

9. There the Corps continued Munday-Night, and all Tueſday till about nine of the Clock at Night, and then all the ſaid five Perſons, *viz. Girald*, *Kelly*, *Green*, *Hill* and *Berry* took him out of the ſaid Room, and brought him back croſs the Court-Yard to the aforeſaid long Entry by Doctor *Goddin*'s Door, but *Hill* going in before to his own Lodging, found (as they declared after) ſome body there, ſo that they could not with ſafety lay him in the ſame Room where he was firſt before, and therefore they carried him into another Room on the left Hand going from the upper Court juſt oppoſite to Doctor *Goddin*'s Door, which as is ſuppoſed was Sr. *John Arundel*'s Lodgings who is Maſter of the Horſe to the Queen.

10. There the Body lay Tueſday-Night, and till Wedneſday about nine a Clock at Night; and then all the ſaid five perſons undertook to convey it back again to the Room in Doctor *Goddin*'s Lodgings where *Hill* Lived, and where it was laid at firſt, they imagining as Mr. *Prance* ſuppoſes that they might have more freedom, and better opportunity to carry it from thence unperceived, than from the other place; But during the time they were ſo removing him, and juſt as they had the Body in the Entry, Mr. *Prance* accidentally came that way, and they not knowing who it might be, left the Body there, and began to fly, *Berry* running away quite to his Lodge, but Mr. *Prance* calling to them, they knowing his Voice, came back, and then they all (but *Berry* who was ſo gon) ſet to their Hands and got it up again into the ſaid little Room in Doctor *Goddin*'s Lodgings, where it was at firſt.

There

11. There they entred into a ſerious Conſultation, and the two Prieſts *Girald* and *Kelly* (whether by order of Superiors or not, cannot here be ſet forth becauſe they named no body that had ſo ordered, but delivered it as their own Senſe) adviſed that the ſafeſt and beſt way was to carry him out into the Fields and lay him in ſome obſcure Place, in ſuch a manner as that when ever he ſhould be found it might be ſuppoſed that he murther'd himſelf, which would much ſerve the Intereſt of the Church, when it ſhould be publickly known, that he who was ſo buſy in charging Catholicks with a Plot, was ſo troubled afterwards for ſo abuſing them in the ſame, that he made away himſelf; and therefore it was agreed that none of his Mony or other things ſhould be medled with, the better to colour that Report; and indeed if they did take away any Note-Book or other Writing from him, it was in *Prance*'s abſence, for he never ſaw them ſearch his Pockets, nor doth know what became of his Band, but ſuppoſes the ſame might be loſt in ſome of their removes, and being found by ſome Papiſt, when the Body was after diſcovered, and enquiry made after the Band, the ſame might be kept concealed, becauſe it ſhould not be any Evidence that he was murthered there.

12. This being well approved of, it was further reſolved to carry the Body away that Night about twelve of the Clock, to which Purpoſe *Hill* and another undertook to get a Sedan, and appointed all to meet there at eleven a Clock; in the mean time they went home. Mr. *Prance* calling as he paſſed, upon *Berry* to let him know that he muſt be ready on ſuch a Sign to open the Gate.

13. Near eleven a Clock that Night Mr. *Prance* returned, and found all the four; *viz.* *Hill*, *Green*, *Girald* and *Kelly* there, and a Sedan provided, ſtanding ready at Doctor *Goddin*'s Door. Now by that time they had contrived which way to carry him and got him into the Sedan, it was neer twelve a Clock, then *Gyrald* and *Prance* going to carry him, found there wanted Leathers and were not able to carry him well with their Arms, ſo *Hill* provided Cords, which they tyed in the nature of Leathers, and then *Gyrald* and *Prance* took him up and carried him over the Court-Yard up to the Lodge and there gave an Hum (which was the Token agreed on) and thereupon *Bury* came forth and opened the Gate and let them out, having on purpoſe to avoide any Notice being taken, invited the Souldiers into his Houſe with Drink and Tobacco, for they ſaw no Centinel at all, and at the Tryal, the Souldiers which that Night ſtood Centinel acknowledged that they ſaw a Sedan come in, but none go out, and indeed it was Impoſſible they ſhould, they not being there, but in *Bury*'s Houſe, where were Lights ſeen and Company heard talking.

Being thus got out of *Sommerſet*-Houſe, *Hill* run before to get ready an Horſe. But whoſe the Horſe was, or where provided, Mr. *Prance* doth not know. Then *Girald* and *Prance* carried him into *Covent-Garden* to the end of *James-ſtreet*, and there ſet him down; and then *Kelly* and *Green*, who walkt by, took him up and carried him along *Kings-ſtreet* to *Newſtreet*-end, and ſo up *Roſe-ſtreet* to *Longacre*-end. Then the firſt two took him up again, and carried him by the *Gray hound* Tavern to the *Grecian* Church, there *Hill* met them with an Horſe, and taking out the Body, ſet it on the Horſe before *Hill*, and clapt the Sedan into an Houſe that was building, but unfurniſht, leaving it there till they came back. The Body being ſo ſet on Horſe-back, *Girald* the Prieſt ſaid, *I wiſh we had an hundred ſuch Rogues as ſecure as we have this.* Then thoſe four, *viz. Hill*, *Girald*, *Kelly* and *Green*, went away with him, one Leading the Horſe, and the other walking by on each ſide, whilſt *Hill* held him on before him. But Mr. *Prance* returned home, becauſe being an Houſe-keeper his Family might take no notice of his being out all night, nor any body obſerve his comming home in the morning, for it was between One and Two before he got back.

14. Next day they met together, and then *Girald* told him that they had laid the Body in a Ditch belonging to a Field about *Primroſe*-Hill; and to make people think when ever he ſhall be found, That he kill'd himſelf, I, ſaid he, run his own Sword through him, and left it in his Body, and laid his Scabbard and Gloves at a ſmall diſtance on the Bank.

15. On the Thurſday in the Afternoon the Body was found: That night Mr. *Prance* was at the *Horſeſhoo*-Tavern in *Drury*-Lane, with *Philip Vernatti*, that ſhould have been actually concerned in the Murther, but fail'd to be there; and alſo another friend that accidentally was with them, knowing nothing in the leaſt of this horrid buſineſs. There ſome people came in and ſaid, That Sir *Edmundbury Godfry* was found murthered. Whereupon the ſaid *Vernatti* calling Mr. *Prance* aſide to the Fire, ſaid, Lord! is this mans body found already that was carried away but yeſternight! Thanks be to God that he was convey'd away without any notice, for now I hope it will never be diſcovered. He ſaid further, That he ſhould have been concern'd, and was ſent to, but was not at home, but was ſorry he was not there, to have been aſſiſtant to them. Then he askt the manner how the Murther was contrived; of which Mr. *Prance*

gave him ſome ſhort account, but not all, becauſe his Friend being in the Room, they were afraid of talking long ſo privately, leſt he ſhould ſuſpect ſomething to their prejudice.

16. In little time after, the ſaid *Vernatti* met with *Girald*, who gave him an exact account in writing of the whole proceedings and manner of the Murther, That he (as he ſaid) might communicate and ſhew the ſame to the Lord *Bellaſis*, and other original Deſigners or promoters of the buſineſs, for their ſatisfaction; which Mr. *Prance* came to the knowledg of in manner following, *viz.* About a fortnight afterwards he met with the ſaid *Vernatti* again, who invited him to *Bow* to take a Dinner, and ſee a Friend of his: To which he conſented, and the day was appointed. But in the morning they were firſt to meet in *London* at the *George*, an Alehouſe right over againſt the *Stocks* Market; where going accordingly, he found Mr. *Vernatti* and the before-mentioned *Lewſon*, a Prieſt that was privy to the Murther, and ſhould likewiſe have been at it, but happened to be abſent; theſe were got thither before, but Mr. *Prance* had but a little time been come to them, before the ſaid *Vernatti* pluckt out of his Pocket a Paper in which was written down an account of the whole Murther, reading the ſame to *Lewſon*. Upon which Mr. *Prance* askt him who gave him all that exact Account? He anſwer'd, *Girald* gave it him to ſhew it to the Lord *Bellaſis*, and the reſt concerned.

17. Then away they went together all Three to *Bow* to a Tavern, being the *Queens-Head*, one Mr. *Caſhes* Houſe, where they went up one pair of Stairs, and there Mr. *Vernatti* wrote a Note to one Mr. *Dethwick* who lived about a mile and an half off, (as Mr. *Prance* thinks, about *Poplar*) to come to him, and cauſes a Meſſenger to be provided to carry it, who was a Cobler, whom he ſtrictly charged not to deliver the ſame to any but *Dethwick*'s own hand, and if he were not at home to bring it back again; whilſt he was gone, looking out at the Window, and hearing Fiſh cried, Mr. *Prance* bought ſome, and ordered the people of the Houſe to dreſs them. But after ſome time, both *Vernatti* and *Lewſon* went down to deſire the Woman not to fry them with Suet but with Butter, ſaying they would allow her ſo much the more for dreſſing, pretending fat would riſe in their Stomacks; but the true reaſon which they declared above, was becauſe it was Friday (being as he remembers the Friday next after the Proclamation came forth, commanding Papiſts to depart the City.) Thus nice and ſcrupulous were they in that paltry

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Obſervation, who could aber, counſel, and without the leaſt remorſe, carry on a moſt Helliſh Plot, and premeditated Murther. Yet was not this Caution ſo neatly delivered, but that the people began to have a ſuſpition that they were *Papiſts* ; for having a Barrel of *Colcheſter* Oyſters brought, the Cobler return'd with word, That Mr. *Dethwick* would preſently be there; who came accordingly , and was entertain'd by *Vernatti* with abundance of Complaiſance and Careſſes ; ſo fell to their Oyſters, and preparing for Dinner: Mr. *Vernatti* was ſo eager to Communicate the buſineſs, that he had got the before-mentioned Narrative of Sir *Edmundbury*'s Death in his hand, and was reading the ſame to *Dethwick*, who ſaid the ſame was very well; but a boy of the Houſe obſerving a paper in his hand, and having ſome ſuſpition, becauſe he heard the name of Sir *Edmundbury Godfry* mentioned (as he hath ſince made Oath) did liſten at the door, till Mr. *France* perceiving ſomething ſtir behind the door, and being (as the Guilty always are) full of ſuſpitions and jealouſies, ran to the door, and opening it, found him there, and threatned to kick him down ſtairs; and from that time they would not ſuffer the door any more to be ſhut, becauſe no body ſhould liſten. However there they continued all that day, and at night went every one to his home.

18. Soon after this, *Vernatti* was very importunate with Mr. *France* to go out of Town with him ; whether it were to have done him a miſchief, as fearing to put confidence in him, and ſuſpecting he ſhould diſcover them, he knows not, but abſolutely refuſed to go with him. This *Vernatti* is a perſon that has been a great Traveller, and liv'd a long time at *Rome*, maintaining a Correſpondence both in *France* and *Italy* with Jeſuits and other the moſt dangerous Popiſh Firebrands; he frequently made it his buſineſs to carry away young Gentlemen to *Rhemes*, *Doway*, and other foreign Seminaries, and ſometimes young Ladies to Nunneries. In a word, he was a mighty ſtickler in the Catholick cauſe; and a perſon ſo dangerous, that 'tis pity he has eſcaped the hand of Juſtice.

19 Thus far this Execrable Murther was carried on in ſecret, and the parties concern'd began to be out of all pain concerning it, not dreading any diſcovery ; but at laſt the righteous God by an unexpected means was pleaſed to lay open the ſame, and in infinite mercy to bring Mr. *France* (whom the vile Prieſts perſwaſions as aforeſaid had drawn in to be an Accomplice, and hardned ſo far as not to have any due ſenſe of the Guilt he had

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contracted) to be deeply affected with the horror of that crime, heartily penitent for the same, and instrumental towards a full discovery. The bringing this to pass was most assuredly the over-ruling hand of a special Providence, as appears by the strangeness of the Circumstances which contributed to his being first question'd for the same.

For the better understanding whereof, we must acquaint the world with an Accident that happened before the Murther committed, which yet casually occasion'd its discovery so long after.

Upon the first notice of the Plot and Commitment of *Fenwick*, *Ireland*, and the rest of the Traitors that were first apprehended, Mr. *Prance* being then blindly zealous for Popery, happening to be in a Coffee-house where some people were talking of the said Prisoners,for the credit of the Catholick cause, did there speak words in their favour, which some of the Company thought *ill*, and gave (as he was told) some information against him; whereof having notice, to avoid trouble and charge, he did absent himself from his House the three Nights next,and immediately after *Michaelmas* day, *viz.* on the Munday and Tuesday nights he lay at a Friends House right over against his Dwelling; and on Wednesday-night at an House by the *Mews-gate*. But then understanding that the business was over, and no prosecution like to be made on it, he afterwards lay at home as before, and this was very near a Fortnight before Sir *Edmundbury* was murther'd. Yet by occasion of this,twelve weeks after Mr. *Prance* was call'd in question; for there happening some misunderstanding between a Neighbour and him, who having got some Intelligence that he once lay three Nights out of his House, he will not say out of ill will,because he acknowledges the hand of God in it,but upon a mistake it was,that he did imagine that these might be the Nights whereon Sir *Edmundbury Godfry* was murthered, and those that succeeded it, and upon this naked surmise, bottom'd upon nothing that he or any that he could produce (though Mr. *Prance*'s Servants were scrutiniz'd) knew of the matter, a Warrant was obtain'd from the most Honourable Council-Board to apprehend and examine Mr. *Prance* touching that matter. Being taken upon that Warrant on the 21 of *Dec.* last,being St. *Thomas* his day, he was first carried into the Lobby by the House of Commons,where Mr. *Bedlow*, whom he did not know,having but once been seen by him before, *viz.* between the Murther and carrying out of the Body of Sir *Edmundbury*

Godfry

Godfrey, and at a time when Mr. *Prance* did not obſerve him, yet knew his face again, and charg'd him poſitively with being concern'd in that Murther; and thereupon after Examination he was committed to *Newgate* on Saturday the 21 of *December*.

Upon the Munday following he made a diſcovery upon Oath, and then did Impeach the ſaid *Fitz-Girald*, *Dominick Kelly*, *Robert Green*, *Henry Berry*, and *Laurence Hill*; of theſe the two ſubtil Prieſts made ſhift to eſcape; *Girald* having not ſince been heard of, but *Kelly* was got into the Priſon of the *Marſhalſeys* by the name of *Daniel Edmonds*, being taken up ſomewhere in the County of *Surrey* where he retired to hide himſelf, and ſent thither for being a Recuſant; and hearing of *Prance*'s being apprehended, made all the Intereſt he could to be gone, and ſo procured unknown Bail hired for 10 *s.* a piece, and got away in *December*, before he was known to be *Kelly*; though ſince there hath been a full diſcovery thereof made publick; as for *Hill* and *Berry* they were forthwith taken at their own Houſes, but *Green* was before clapt up a Priſoner in the Gatehouſe for refuſing to take the Oath, (for his Conſcience was wonderful tender in that, but able to digeſt a Murther.) And when his Keeper came to acquaint him that there was another Buſineſs come againſt him, and that he was charg'd with the Murther of Sir *Edmundbury Godfrey*, he haſtily askt, Who accuſed him? and the Keeper telling him, It was one *Prance*: he preſently clapt his hand on his Breaſt, and ſaid theſe words, *Then am I a dead man.*

20. On the 24*th.* of *December*, *Prance* was carried before the King and Council, where he gave a particular account of the Circumſtances of the Murther, as herein before is ſet forth; and for more full ſatisfaction touching the ſeveral places he had had occaſion to mention, his Majeſty thought fit to appoint his Grace the Duke of *Monmouth*, the right Honourable the Earl of *Oſſory*, the Earl of *Clarendon*, and Sir *Robert Southwell* Clerk of the Council, to go with him and take his Examination on the place, and ſee if he could ſhew all the particular places he had mentioned to the Board: Being come there he ſhew'd his Grace and thoſe Noble Lords, firſt the fatal ſpot, or place where Sir *Edmundbury Godfrey* was murthered, the place where *Berry* was aſſigned to ſtand, and where himſelf ſtood; then the door he was carried in at by the end of the Stables, the Stairs, the long dark Entry, the door leading to Doctor *Goddins* Lodgings, the little Chamber there where the Body was firſt laid; going to them all as readily as a man could do to any room in his own Houſe, which all appeared to be exactly ſituate as he had deſcribed them that morning before to the

Board. But as to that Room where he ſaw the Body lie on the Monday-night, being croſs the upper Court, (though he carried them directly towards the place croſs the Court, and told his Grace ſo far he was ſure he was right, yet there being ſeveral Rooms, and he having never been there but once, and that in the night, and only with a dark Lanthorn,) he was not able certainly to aſſign the very Room. But as to all the other places he was poſitive, and ſo his Grace and their Honours return'd very well ſatisfied in the reality of his Information.

21. Here is to be noted, That whilſt they were viewing Doctor *Goddins* Lodgings, Mrs. *Broadſtreet* the Doctor's Houſe-keeper, coming to underſtand what it was for, and that *Hill* their Servant was charged with the Murther of Sir *Edmundbury Godfry*, ſhe (like a right *Papiſt*, to keep up the reputation of the party) voluntarily offered her Oath, and did ſwear before the Duke of *Monmouth*, That the ſaid *Hill* had taken an Houſe in *Stanhope*-ſtreet, and went thither to live and lodg at *Michaelmas*; whereas in truth, and at the Trial of the ſaid *Hill*, *&c.* it was plainly made appear before her face, That the ſaid *Hill* did not go to reſide at ſuch his new houſe ſo ſoon, but continued his Lodging here till about three Weeks after *Michaelmas*, in which time all theſe Tranſactions concerning the Murther, happened. She then further ſwore, That there was but one Key belonging to the outward door of their Lodgings, and ſo it was impoſſible that *Hill* ſhould go out and in, and all theſe things be done, and they within not ſee him, or take notice of them; and yet before they went away from thence, Mr. *Prance* made it appear, and ſhe was forc'd to confeſs, That there were four or five Keys amongſt them thereunto, one of which *Hill* did always uſe to carry about him, that he might at any time come in, and go out at his pleaſure without troubling or diſturbing the reſt of the Family; and Mr. *Prance* himſelf hath been ſeveral times let in by him therewith, they in the inner rooms taking no notice, as he could perceive.

22. But now becauſe Mr. *Prance* would conceal nothing, but impartially ſet forth all that happened in this matter, he muſt not omit the Relation of that Imbecility (or what elſe ſober and unbiaſt Judges ſhall pleaſe to call it) which has been ſo much talkt of, and variouſly reported.

Moſt true it is, though the ſenſe of the bloody crime that he had been concern'd in, did (in ſpight of all the Popiſh Doctrines he had imbib'd) work ſuch Convictions now on Mr. *Prance* his awakned Conſcience, as to make this real Confeſſion; yet by the horror there-

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of, the danger his life was in, the apparent hazard of being utterly undone, together with a certain reſpect which he ſtill bore towards that Religion he had been bred in, and other ſelfiſh Conſiderations, he was once, for avoiding (as he then conceived) theſe dangers, betray'd by humane frailty ſo far to retract by word of mouth, what he had before moſt truly confeſſed upon Oath, as to ſay before the King and Council, *That he was innocent, and they all* (meaning the reſt accuſed) *were innocent* ; and that was the ſubſtance of all he then and there declared in that kind: For which he humbly begs pardon of God, his Majeſty, that Honourable Board, and the World. And though he dare not go about to excuſe the ſame wholly, yet there are ſeveral Circumſtances that much alleviate it, and render it inſignificant to invalidate what he had before truly ſet forth. For,

1. What he before declared concerning the Murther in manner before herein ſet forth, was ſolemnly upon Oath ; this ſuppoſed Retractation was ſuddenly done under conſternation and fear, and not upon Oath.

2. He was at that time under certain danger of his life if he perſiſted in that Confeſſion, for he had no pardon granted, nor any certainty of obtaining the ſame.

3. If he ſhould obtain his pardon, he conſidered, That yet his Life would be ſtill in danger from the revengeful and bloody Prieſts and Jeſuits.

4. His mind was ſorely troubled, as with all theſe dangers, ſo with this further apprehenſion, That if he ſhould eſcape with his Life, yet by this diſcovery he ſhould loſe his livelihood, and in all humane probability both he and all his Family be utterly undone; for as he was the Queens Servant, and that his Trade and ſubſiſtence chiefly, or indeed wholly depended on Her Majeſties Cuſtom, (which was certain and conſiderable) and that of other *Roman* Catholicks; ſo it was not to be doubted but the moſt crafty and implacable Prieſts would ſoon uſe means by falſe Repreſentations and ſcandal, to deprive him thereof if he proceeded in this detection.

5. He retained ſtill a certain reſpect to the Popiſh Religion in which he had ſo long been educated ; for he had not yet intirely got his ſoul out of that ſnare, and therefore he did then conceive, being ſwayed by ſuch powerful Inducements, That he might lawfully ſay, He was innocent, and ſo they were All ; which in Popiſh conſtruction is not to deny that they killed Sir *Edmundbury Godfry*, for that according to their Divinity, and what the ſaid Prieſts had ſolemnly declared, was no ſin or crime, and conſequently they might

might all in ſuch their Catholick ſenſe ſtill be *innocent*; yet this he muſt acknowledg he ſomewhat doubted, becauſe he had never been at Confeſſion, and received Abſolution, ſince the Fact committed, which all the reſt (as ſome of themſelves had declar'd) had done, and ſo might more peremptorily perſiſt (as they did) in averring themſelves to be innocent; & he does ingenuouſly declare, That had he received Abſolution, 'tis his fear he ſhould never, or not without extream difficulty have been brought to any acknowledgment.

Theſe Circumſtances, together with a great diſtemper of body contracted by the incommodities of Confinement, want of Air, *&c.* occaſion'd that ſudden revolt of his reaſon and duty under that perplexity of ſpirit; but as ſoon as he had done it, Conſcience flew in his face, and would no longer be laid aſleep with any deluſive Popiſh charms; when he began to recollect himſelf, the power of Truth diſperſed all theſe temptations of Intereſt, fear and ſuperſtition. If it were true, that he might hazard his Life and loſe his Trade, if he did perſiſt in the Confeſſion of the Murther; it was as true, and he found it by experience, that he ſhould never have peace of Conſcience if he denied it.

And therefore he was no ſooner return'd from the King and Council to *Newgate* (which coming in a Coach 'tis certain was not half an hour) but he moſt earneſtly requeſted Capt *Richardſon* (who had been with him, and heard what he had ſaid that morning) for Gods ſake to go back and aſſure the King and that Honourable Board from him, That the firſt Confeſſion which he had made on Oath was true in all Circumſtances; and that whatſoever he had ſaid before them that morning to the contrary, was occaſion'd only by the conſternation, fear, and perplexity of mind he was under, which the Captain immediately did, and hath ſince declared the ſame upon Oath.

23. The next day he grew more ſick, inſomuch that his life was deſpaired of, continuing ſo for about a week; during this ſickneſs, the Reverend Dr. *Lloid* Dean of *Bangor*, was charitably pleaſed to give him a Viſit, & beſtow'd much pains with him at ſeveral times, inſtructing him in the grounds & reaſons of the Proteſtant Religion; from whoſe pious Admonitions & labours, by the Divine bleſſing, he reaped much benefit for the comfort and ſetling of his perplexed Soul, and thinks it his duty, for the ſame publickly to return him his hearty Thanks, Being wholly taken off from the Apoſtatiz'd bloody *Roman* Church, which he utterly renounces, and doth freely, cordially, and intirely embrace the Proteſtant Religion, and therein particularly ſubmits himſelf to the Church of *England*, reſolving (by Gods Grace) therein to live and die.

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24. After God had been pleaſed to reſtore in ſome meaſure his health, having given ſeveral Inſtances of ſtedfaſtneſs to his firſt Confeſſion, by making ſome further Diſcoveries in the mean time, he was again carried before the Kings moſt Excellent Majeſty and the Right Honourable the Lords of the Council, and there being largely re-examined, repeated his former Diſcoveries, agreeing in all Circumſtances; and then his Majeſty was graciouſly pleaſed with his own Royal Lips to give him aſſurance of his Gracious Pardon, and ſpon after the ſame was perfected in due Form of Law, under the Great Seal of *England*. For which with deepeſt ſenſe of humility and gratitude, he declared himſelf ever ready to pay moſt hearty thanks in all obſervance and duty, deſiring no longer to enjoy that life which he holds by his Royal Favour, than he ſhall upon all occaſions imploy it to the utmoſt of his Capacity in his Majeſties ſervice, for the ſafety of his ſacred life, the welfare of his Kingdoms, and the intereſt of the true Proteſtant Religion.

But whereas by Popiſh Adverſaries there have been ſeveral falſe and ſcandalous Reports invented and ſpread abroad, that he was rackt or tortured in *Newgate*, and with harſh uſages forced to confeſs what he did touching the Treaſons and Murther aforeſaid, he does declare the ſame are wholly falſe, and that on the contrary he did the ſame freely within two days after he was brought in there, and that he received ſeveral Civilities from Captain *Richardſon* during his Confinement under his Cuſtody.

And he does proteſt in the preſence of God, the ſearcher of hearts, before whoſe juſt and dreadful Tribunal we muſt all appear, that as to the whole Diſcovery and Evidence he hath given, he hath not therein been byaſs'd with any malice or ſiniſter ends, nor done any wrong to any of the perſons accuſed; but ſhall conclude this impartial Account of Sir *Edmundbury Godfrey's* Murther, with his moſt hearty prayers, *That as he hath obtained the Kings Majeſty's Gracious Pardon here on Earth, for his heinous Crime in being ſo Acceſſary to the Death of that innocent worthy Gentleman, ſo on ſincere Repentance, and through the only Merits of Jeſus Chriſt, he may for the ſame receive forgiveneſs from the King of Kings in the World to come.*

The Popiſh Conſpiracy to Murther the Right Honourable the Earl of Shaftsbury, *and ſome other Contrivances after Sir* Edmundbury Godfrey's *Death.*

AFTER the Murther of Sir *Edmundbury Godfrey*, and ſome farther diſcovery of the Plot, there was no perſon (next to his ſacred Majeſty) againſt whom the malice of theſe Popiſh Conſpirators was more directly levelled, than at the Right Honourable the Earl of *Shaftsbury*, as knowing that till ſo able a Stateſman, and vigilant and active a Patriot, firm to the true Intereſt of his King and Country, and zealous for the preſervation of the Proteſtant Religion, was taken out of the way, their curſed Machinations would be fruſtrated, and their wicked deſigns be rendred ineffectual. And therefore they not only by their Emiſſaries and Abetters, both formerly and of late, had endeavoured to aſperſe his Honour, but alſo entred into a formal Conſpiracy and Reſolution to murther him, and engaged ſeveral barbarous Villains to do it; though by the Providence of Heaven over his Noble Perſon, and a timely diſcovery, happily prevented.

1. About five weeks before *William Staley* (lately Executed for Treaſon) was apprehended, Mr. *Prance* was with one Mr. *Meſſinger* (Gentleman of the Horſe to the Lord *Arundel* of *Warder*, and formerly named in this Narrative for a Deſign to Murther his ſacred Majeſty) one *Proſſer* a Silver-ſmith, and one *Matteſon* a Barber then living in *Holbourn*, all rank deſperate Papiſts, at Mr. *Bradley's* an Alehouſe in *Holbourn*; where the ſaid Mr. *Meſſinger* grievouſly complained of the ſeverity of the Laws that were againſt the *Roman Catholicks*, expreſſing his apprehenſions that they would now be rigorouſly put in Execution againſt them, by ſome that were not lovers of their party, and particularly he named the Earl of *Shaftsbury* as one of their moſt dangerous Enemies, and who did moſt concern himſelf about them, and in diſcovering the Plot, and therefore he ſaid, There muſt be ſome effectual means uſed to rid him out of the world, and declared that it was already reſolved on.

2. That about a Fortnight, or near thereabouts, before the ſaid *Staley's* Apprehenſion, he was in Company with the ſaid *Staley*, and

and the ſaid *Matteſon*, at the Croſs-Keys Tavern over againſt Mr. *Staley*'s Fathers Houſe, where in diſcourſe they were complaining of the great Afflictions the Catholicks lay under, and what ſevere Uſages they muſt further expect, if once this Plot ſhould come to be believed, and be made out againſt them; and thereupon the ſaid *Matteſon* ſaid, That if they did not take ſome ſpeedy courſe to deſtroy ſome particular perſons that were their moſt active Enemies, they (meaning the *Roman* Catholicks in general) ſhould be ruined; and therefore in the firſt place (ſaid he) we reſolve to kill my Lord *Shaftsbury*, (whom he then called, *The Ring-leader of the miſchief which they feared would fall upon them:*) And further, the ſaid *Matteſon* ſaid, That he would engage three more to aſſiſt in that work of killing the ſaid Earl, whoſe Names he then and there declared; that is to ſay, one *Adamſon* a Watch-maker, and the ſaid *Proſſer*, and one *Bradſhaw* an Upholſterer.

3. That ſome ſhort time after the ſaid *Matteſon* came to Mr. *Prance*'s Shop, and pulled a Piſtol out of his Pocket, ſaying, *This ſhall do* Shaftsbury*'s buſineſs*; declaring he had provided the ſame on purpoſe for killing the ſaid Earl.

4. That afterwards Mr. *Prance* met with the before-named *Adamſon* at Mr. *Pedley*'s at the White Poſts in *Vere-ſtreet*; where diſcourſing of News, *Adamſon* ſaid, That the Catholicks would be all undone, if they did not look about them, and therefore they were reſolved to kill the Lord *Shaftsbury*: Againſt whom, upon all occaſions or mention, both he and the other Perſons before nominated, expreſſed the utmoſt malice and hatred imaginable, as being, they ſaid, moſt likely to obſtruct and fruſtrate their Deſigns: Likewiſe the ſaid *Adamſon* another time, not long after, did again expreſs ſuch Deſign to murther the ſaid Lord, and then owned that he himſelf in particular was engaged therein, and would kill him as ſoon as he could get an opportunity: which words were by him uttered at the Sign of the Gridiron an Alehouſe in *Holbourn*.

5. About the ſame time the before-named *Proſſer* coming to Mr. *Prance*'s Shop, did likewiſe tell him, That he did reſolve to kill the Lord *Shaftsbury*, and aſſigned this reaſon or provocation which incited him thereunto, *viz. For that he the ſaid Earl of* Shaftsbury *and ſome other Proteſtant Lords, did intend to ruine the Lord* Arundel *of* Warder, *on the account of the Plot, which Lord* Arundel (as he ſaid) *was his the ſaid* Proſſer*'s very good Cuſtomer and Benefactor.* And alſo the ſaid *Proſſer* did, at Mr. *Bradley*'s Houſe in *Holbourn*, declare, that he was to be an Enſign under the ſaid Lord *Arundel* in the

Forces

Forces which were to have been raiſed by the Conſpirators, for the ſubverſion of the Government and Extirpation of the Proteſtant Religion.

6. That the before-named *Bradſhaw*, about the ſame time, *viz.* the firſt or ſecond Week of *November*, came to Mr. *Prance*'s Shop one day, and in diſcourſe did ſay, That he would make no more to kill a Proteſtant than to kill a Dog or a Cat, which he pronounced with a great deal of vehemency and earneſtneſs, and ſaid moreover, That he was reſolved to diſpatch ſome of thoſe buſie heretical Lords, but the firſt ſhould be the Lord *Shaftsbury*: and likewiſe the ſaid *Bradſhaw* pulled out a Piſtol, and ſhewed the ſame in the ſaid Shop, declaring that he had prepared the ſame to do the ſaid Execution therewith.

7. That the ſaid *Bradſhaw* is a violent cruel Papiſt, of moſt dangerous Principles, and fit to be employed in ſuch aſſaſſinating bloody Attempts, appears by this Inſtance, That about three years ago being with ſome Company in a Shop in *Dukes-ſtreet*, diſcourſing, and ſeeing a little Child paſſing by, he voluntarily ſaid, that he would make no more to kill that heretical Child than to kill a Dog.

8. That another time the before-named *Proſſer*, at Mr. *Bradley's* Houſe in *Holbourn*, did declare, That the before-mentioned Mr. *Meſſinger* (Gentleman of the Horſe to the Lord *Arundel* of *Warder*) was the perſon that principally promoted the killing of the Lord *Shaftsbury*, and that he himſelf was engaged therein, and did not doubt but in ſhort time to get an opportunity to effect the ſame.

9. That Mr. *Henry Nevil* is very intimate with the before-mentioned *Proſſer*, and hath for a long time been aiding and aſſiſting to him, and doth hold a Correſpondence with the Lords in the Tower, and with ſome perſons at *Rome*, ſending Lettes duly thither, and receiving great Pacquets back again from thence very frequently; and that one of his Servants having ſeveral of the ſaid Letters in his Trunk, the ſaid Mr. *Nevil* about laſt cauſed the ſaid Trunk to be broke open (the Fellow being then in the Country) and took away the ſaid Papers, to prevent any Diſcovery that might be made thereby.

10. That Mr. *Richard Nevil*, Nephew to the ſaid *Henry Nevil*, did maintain a Correſpondence with the Lords in the Tower in a very ſuſpicious manner, *viz.* Dreſſing himſelf in a Coach-mans Habit, he drove his own Coach, wherein rode his Coachman in the Equipage of a Gentleman, and taking upon him the Name of

of Squire *Duck*; who being come to the Tower, this pretend-Squire *Duck* commanded the diſguiſed Coach-man (who was his real Maſter) to go in to the Lords, and preſent his moſt Humble Service to them, and to tell them that he came as nigh them as he could, and ſhould be moſt glad to hear of their good healths; in which diſguiſe the ſaid *Nevil* went up to their Lordſhips Lodging, and ſtayed with them a conſiderable time, whilſt the true Coach-man remained in the Coach. But ſoon afterwards the ſaid *Duck* was removed from that Imploy of Coach-man, and ſent away into the Country; for fear, as is moſt probable, that he ſhould diſcover this and other the like Actions of the ſaid two Gentlemen; this Relation came from the ſaid Coach-mans own Mouth.

11. That in the Month of *October* laſt Mr. *Prance* met with one Mr. *Cozeen*, a *French* Papiſt, and by Trade a Taylor, who walking together in *Covent-Garden*, and diſcourſing of News; The ſaid *Cozeen* ſaid, that the King and Parliament deſigned to undo us, (meaning the *Romaniſts*) but, ſaid he, If I were to kill a man, I would kill the King as ſoon as any man, and if we had him in *France* we would have kill'd him before now; intending thereby, as he underſtood him, and as the Natural ſenſe of that Expreſſion imports, to magnify the Courage and Zeal of their *French* Papiſts, and how ready they would be to kill their King, if he were of another Religion, which he propoſed as an Example that he would have Engliſh *Roman* Catholicks to imitate; and another time, not long after, the ſaid *Cozeen* ſpake the ſame words, or to the very ſame effect in *Prance*'s Shop.

A

BRIEF DETECTION

OF

The Immoral Behaviour, Cruel Expreſſions, and Vile Practiſes of ſeveral other Popiſh Prieſts with whom M. P. *hath been acquainted.*

HAving thus faithfully and impartially made a candid Diſcovery of the ſeveral Traiterous and Bloody Intrigues carried on by the Papiſts, herein before ſet forth, we ſhall thereunto add a ſhort Account of the Manners of divers *Romiſh* Prieſts, with whom *M. Prance* hath had Converſation; which he does proteſt to do, not out of any malice to their Perſons, but out of deteſtation to their dangerous Principles and lewd Practiſes, and more eſpecially that others whom Education or crafty Inſinuations have brought up in, or inveigled to the *Romiſh* Communion, may reflect and conſider what kind of people they are whom they blindly follow, and thereby be awakened to forſake ſuch wicked and beaſtly Guides, and no longer be led aſtray by them, to the diſhonour of God, ſcandal of Chriſtian Religion which they pretend to profeſs, diſturbance of Government, danger of their Neighbours, and hazard of their own Souls.

1. Amongſt many other Prieſts he had a particular acquaintance with one Mr. *Matthews*, that was Prieſt to the Lord *Peters*, who was a very bitter Enemy to all Proteſtants, and hath ſeveral times ſaid, *That they* (meaning the Proteſtants)

ſtants) *were all certainly and infallibly damn'd, and that it was impoſſible for a Soul of them to be ſaved*; further adding, *that to kill any of them was no ſin, eſpecially if it were for the intereſt of the Church*; and the like wicked and cruel Expreſſions: He alſo in or about the Month of *Auguſt* laſt, ſaid, That his Lord and the Lord *Bellaſis*, with ſome other Catholick Lords, would e're long have a good Army on foot, and that all the Devils in Hell could not prevent it, but the Catholick Religion would quickly be ſettled in *England*. We may believe him, that the Devils would not prevent or hinder it, ſince it was ſo much their Intereſt to have it eſtabliſht, eſpecially by ſuch bloody and helliſh means as the Conſpirators were reſolved to make uſe of for that purpoſe; but God has hitherto, and we hope will ſtill, be graciouſly pleaſed to prevent their Deſigns. This Gentleman was a great Dealer in Reliques and *Agnus Dei's*, and hath cheated divers ignorant devout people (as hath been credibly reported) of conſiderable Sums of Money for ſuch Trumpery. He hath oftentimes, with much reverence and ceremony, as kiſſing them, *&c.* ſhewed *M. Prance* ſeveral pieces of Bones, which he ſaid were the Bones of ſuch and ſuch He-and-She Saints, whoſe Names he had at his Tongues end, and attributed moſt wonderful Vertues to them; for he hath affirmed, That they being worn about one, would keep the Devil from one, ſo that not only he ſhould have no power to hurt ones Perſon, but not ſo much as to tempt thoſe to ſin that carried them about them: That in a Tempeſt they would preſerve one from drowning, and if an Houſe were on Fire, if you caſt in one of them, the ſame would preſently ſtop the Fire, *&c.* But as to the laſt it is apparent, that he and his Brethren, the Popiſh Prieſts and *Jeſuits*, are far more dexterous Artiſts in contriving devices to burn down Houſes, than to quench them when on Fire.

2. There was occaſion before to mention one *Singleton* a Prieſt, that declared, *He would make no more to ſtab* 40 *Parliament men, than to eat his Dinner*; beſides his Quality of Prieſt he was alſo a kind of Sollicitor or Broker amongſt the Papiſts, making it his buſineſs to get other Peoples Money into his hands, and put it out to Uſe; in which Trade he

plaid

plaid the Extortioner moſt egregiouſly, for all that he could get above the due Intereſt of *6 l. per Cent.* being to be put in his own Pocket, he would not let 40 or 50 *l.* out for ſix Months, but he would have 40 *s.* for Procuration, which muſt be deducted on the firſt iſſuing of the Money, and yet the full Legal Intereſt to run on; and beſides he always would fill up the Bond himſelf; and for that buſineſs, (for which no Scrivener ever asked above 12 *d.*) he would make the poor people pay five Shillings: Theſe Practiſes of his *M. Prance* can affirm on his own knowledge; and there are divers who have dealt with him on theſe terms who can teſtifie the ſame; and yet this Ghoſtly Father was a great Preacher againſt Covetouſneſs and Uſury; but it ſeems he meant only in others, not himſelf: For in other Caſes likewiſe he allowed himſelf the like Priviledges, for he would frequently be Drunk, and ſtay out till one or two of the Clock in the Morning, or after, and yet go the ſame Forenoon to ſay Maſs, and conſequently received the Sacrament, which they teach the People muſt in no wiſe be done, unleſs the party be ſtrictly faſting.

3. Mr. *Byfleet* and Doctor *Guilding*, two Prieſts, have ſeverally declared in Mr. *Hall* the Cook's Houſe, and divers other places, That they reſpectively had turned ſeveral People from the Proteſtant Religion, and reconciled them to the Church of *Rome*, in the City of *London*, and that they hoped they ſhould turn many more. They were both Perſons of a very vitious Converſation, but ſlily carried it. *Byfleet* was a mighty magnifier of the Vertues and Neceſſity of Faſting to other People in *Lent*, *Ember-days*, *&c.* but as for himſelf, could frequently, as is well known, diſpenſe with ſix Penny-worth of Victuals, and a Quart or two of Ale, all alone for a Breakfaſt or Supper on the ſame days in his Chamber. As for Doctor *Guilding*, he was his Couſin, and (they ſaid) had read Philoſophy many years at *Doway*, but very much forgot his Ethicks in *England*, being ſo filthily addicted to lewd Women, that one could not but conclude he received his Ordination from Pope *Joan*, or ſome of her fulſom Succeſſors.

Theſe

Theſe two laſt named, and *Singleton*, were moſt frequently at Mr. *Hall* the Cook's houſe in *Ivy Lane*, and there they dined, and Mr. *Prance* does verily beleive, that thoſe many *Popiſh* Books being above a Cart-load and an half, with the *Prieſts* Veſtments, Beads, Images, and other ſuperſtitious Trumpery, which were lately found there in Searching of his Houſe, did belong to them; And the ſaid *Hall* (as he likewiſe believes) does know where they are, or were, ſince they abſconded themſelves: for which ſuſpicion there are theſe two grounds. Firſt, Becauſe whenever about *November* or *December* laſt, he came to ſpeak with *Singleton* or either of the others; he the ſaid *Hall* undertook to take his buſineſs, and muſt needs deliver it to *Singleton*; becauſe when he called again he fail'd not to give M. *P.* an Account of it from him; Secondly, Becauſe Mr. *Hadden* Servant to Doctor *Parrot*, the Superior of Secular *Prieſts* told him, That always when he came with Money to be diſtributed for Maſſes for the Dead, *Hall* took the money that was deſigned for *Singleton*, and convey'd it to him. The meaning of which is thus, When any Roman *Catholick* dies, 'tis probable there is a Prieſt (ſometimes two or three) by him, who never fail to put him in mind, and frighten him with the pains of Purgatory, and of the Virtues of Maſſes ſaid to eaſe and deliver them from the ſame ſo much the ſooner, ſo that being therewith terrified, If he be a Perſon of any conſiderable Quality or Eſtate, it ſeldome happens but he leaves ſo much money to pray his Soul out of Purgatory, then this money is paid in to the Superior, who thereupon according to the Sum, ſends to ſo many Prieſts ſo many ſhillings a piece, for which they are each to ſay ſo many Maſſes for the deceaſed; the Common price of Mumbling over a Maſs being accounted 12 *d.* And as for this Doctor *Parrot*, who is, or lately was the Head of all this ſort of *Prieſts* in *England*, 'tis very credibly informed, That he hath been ſeen in Bed with a Whore, by the ſaid Mr. *Hadden* his Servant, who told the ſame to Mr. *Prance*.

4. But as whoring is counted but a Venial Sin by *Papiſts* in general; ſo amongſt them ſcarce any are more devoted thereunto than their Ghoſtly Fathers, who rail ſo loud at the *Proteſtant Clergy* for having honeſt Wives of their own. About 3 years ago one *Kelly* an *Iriſh* Prieſt, (a Kinſman to the before named *Dominick Kelly*, concern'd in the Murther of Sir *Edmund-bury-Godfrey*) being juſt Arrived from *France* or *Flanders*, was brought to lodge at Mr. *Prance's* houſe, and the very firſt Night, the maid going up with him to warm his Bed, he began to uſe ſome Incivilities, which

ſhe modeſtly oppoſing, he proceeded to uſe violence, and would have Raviſht her, inſomuch that ſhe cryed out, and Mr. *Prance's* Wife haſtning up Stairs, and perceiving his rudeneſs, being affrighted run down again, fearing he would have done her ſome miſchief, and called in ſome Neighbours, who immediately coming in, cauſed him to deſiſt: for which M. P. Wife would preſently have turn'd him out of doors, but it being late in the Night, and he wholly a Stranger in the Town; He would not (though he were a Rogue) be ſo inhoſpitable to him; but ſuffered him to ſtay till morning; However they were obliged to burn Candle all Night for fear in Revenge he ſhould do them a Miſchief.

5. One *Dowdal* being Colonel *Talbot's* Prieſt at *Twitnam*, ſome few years ago, and under that Quality much Entruſted, ſtole and run away with the Chalice, Crewet, Baſon, Rich Copes, Veſtiments, Surplices and other Sacred Gear, provided for him to officiate the Maſs with, and being wholly a Stranger, expoſed the Baſon and Crewet to Sale at Mr. *Prance's* Shop, who fairly and at a valuable price bought the ſame, The Prieſt having received his money, invited him into a Tavern, and afterwards agreed, That he ſhould come next day to his Lodging in *White-Fryers*, and ſee the Veſtments, Linnen and other things; which he did and offered him 8 *l.* but he would not take under 12 or 15 *l.* However he would go again to drink, and at laſt walkt with Mr. *Prance* home, who leaving him in a Parlour, where there was a little Girl of about 6 years of Age, whil'ſt he went to attend ſome Cuſtomers in the Shop, this Goatiſh Prieſt began to play the Villain with the Child, and would have ſpoil'd her, (had ſhe not cry'd out) with his impudent Rudeneſs, which made him run into ſee what was the matter and occaſioned the other to haſten away, and preſently ſhifted his Lodging: for going next day to look after him he was gone, out of fear (as is ſuppoſed) of being apprehended for the Robbery; of which yet there was no great danger; For though within a day or two Mr. *Prance* heard of the Robbery, by one that was a Servant to the Colonel, yet ſuch was the ſaid Colonel's extreme Zeal, and ſo prevalent above the Reſentment of his loſs, that (as he was by that Servant aſſured) as ſoon as he diſcovered what their Prieſt had done, he called all his People together, and did ſolemnly charge them not to ſpeak thereof to any Perſon, becauſe if known, it would be a foul ſcandal to their Religion: Adding that if he found any of them ſhould utter a word of it he would

would run them through; A Seal of Secresy, (when one's life lies at Stake) almost as firm as that of Confession.

About 4 years ago there was one Mr. *Thomas Sheepherd* a person related to Mr. *Prance*, who being Sick, sent to him to procure a *Romish* Priest to come to him, Mr. *Prance* much wondered at his desire, as having always accounted him a Protestant, however it being his Request, and understanding he was very ill, and not likely to Live, he did endeavour to get one. And thereupon repaired to doctor *Hanson* a Carmelite, at *Wild House*, one of their Superiours, who directed him to Doctor *Clement Mutus*, a Benedictin Monk belonging to the *Spanish* Ambassadour, but lodging then at one *Ireland's* a Tobaconist in *Verestreet*. Having told him the Story, and what a work of Charity it would be to save a Soul, he readily condescended to go, and did give the man what advice he thought fit, &c. But the Sick party being very Poor did not give him any money, which as appears he expected; for next day the Man growing still weaker, sent to desire the same Priest again, to which purpose Mr. *Prance* went to request his Company. But here truly found the old Proverb verified, *No penny no Pater-Noster*, for this charitable Father told him No, he would not, for he gave him nothing yesterday. Mr. *Prance* urged that so good a work as to reduce a dying Heretick to the Church would reward it self, and be meritorious. He reply'd, he loved a Reward in hand, for all that of the other World; *for* (said he) *they get Heaven by us, and why should not we get money by them*: The other insisted, that the man was very Poor, and had it not, and that he hoped he would not suffer his Soul to be lost; Let his Soul, quoth he, do as it will, I am resolved not to go to any twice that do not pay me; And so by no Intreaties could be induced to stir; but the poor man soon after dyed. So sordidly covetuous are these People, and notwithstanding all their pretences, have really so little Regard to the Salvation of Men, that they would suffer a Soul to perish Eternally (as they say all do, that dye out of their Church's Communion) unless they can get money, by saving it, if indeed (as they impudently pretend) it lay in their power.

There is another Priest that did likewise pretend to belong to the *Spanish* Ambassadour, his name is *Collins*, who 'tis said is now in Custody When His Majestie's Proclamation came out some years ago, commanding away all Priests (but such as were allowed) And that none of his Subjects should go to hear Mass, this zealous Father got up on the leads of *Somerset-House*, and there held his Con-

venticle, and ſaid Maſs, having a great Concourſe of People that followed him; yet this pretious Saint, when a young Wench has come to him to Confeſſion, hath been ſeen to get her between his Leggs, and ſo cloſely hugg, and kiſs her many times over, as if it had been part of her Penance to be moſt filthily ſmuggled. He was a common frequenter of Bawdy-Houſes, and has been obſerved many times to come drunk out of ſuch lewd places, in ſuch filthy poſtures as 'tis a ſhame here to relate.

There is alſo one *Davenport* a Friar, but of what Order, Mr. *Prance* does not remember, who calls himſelf, and is uſually ſtyled, Captain *Davenport*. He is a kind of ſtrowling, wandring Prieſt that rides up nd down the Countreys, but eſpecially *Norfolk*, *Suffolk*, *Cambridgſhire*, Iſle of *Ely*, *&c.* where he does abundance of miſchief in ſeducing people both from the Proteſtant Religion, and their Allegiance to their Soveraign: For he makes it his whole buſineſs to inſinuate, carry News, unſettle weak heads, abuſe the Church of *England* and its Miniſters and Aſſerters, magnifying the Holineſs, Piety, Charity, *&c.* of *Rome*, and by ſuch his Arts perverting the minds of many; For he has long followed this miſchievous Practice, never conſtant in any place, but always in motion from one Gentleman's houſe to another, and ſometimes amongſt people of mean Condition, to ſpread his poiſon the further; As if he deſign'd to infect the whole Countrey. He is no doubt a very dangerous fellow, and no longer ago than the laſt Summer was Twelve-moneth, there being a Chapter, (as they call it, that is, a General Convention) of Friars held in *Somerſet-Houſe*, whither many reſorted both from beyond the Seas, and all Parts of this Realm; On what Deſign (whether to carry on the Great Work) Mr. *Prance* knows not, But hath ſome reaſon to ſuſpect it was for no good purpoſe: For ſeeing about Twenty of them together, amongſt the reſt there was this Captain *Davenport*, whom he then heard ſay, *That he hoped to be a Captain once again in the Catholic Cauſe, before he dyed.*

There is one *Bully*, a Secular Prieſt, who formerly did belong to a *French* Ambaſſador, but of late his Trade has been to run about Hackneying forth of Maſſes for Twelve-pence apiece at private Houſes, where ever he can get Cuſtomers. He was mighty ſtrict in his teaching (as they all do); That people muſt by no means Eat or Drink a drop that Morning on which they intend to Re-

ceive

ceive the Euchariſt, before they come to Maſs, becauſe they muſt receive ſtrictly Faſting; Yet hath not only been frequently ſeen in his road to Mr. *Paſton's* in *Duke-Street* call in at an Ale-houſe, and take his Pot or more of Ale; and ſo away to Maſs; (Now a Prieſt cannot ſay Maſs, but he himſelf muſt needs receive.) But alſo he has been known at play at Cards, Tippling in Company, and Drunk after One a Clock in the Morning at *Pedley's* at the *White Poſts*, and yet the ſame day Trudge to Maſs and earn a Shilling to furniſh a freſh Debauch. But theſe are not all the rare Qualities he has, For he is a notable Whore-monger too; Nay, (if the General Report be true that is Corrant amongſt Catholicks) keeps another man's Wife; which *M. Prance* is the rather inclined to believe, becauſe he hath often met them hand in hand in *Cheapſide*, and other places.

There is one *Holt* a Secular Prieſt, that uſed to Officiate at the Lady *Somerſets* in *Lincolns-Inn-Fields*, who is a virulent Enemy to all Proteſtants, and hath often been heard by *M. Prance* to declare, That 'tis Impoſſible any of them ſhould ever be ſaved. Now how ready a way is this to inflame Papiſts againſt them, and how apt will they be to Cut their Throats, and any way deſtroy thoſe whom they are already made to believe are Enemies of God, and nothing but fit fewel for Hell. And that this was his Deſign, is moſt probable both by the violent eagerneſs of ſuch his Expreſſions, As alſo becauſe *M. Prance* hath often heard him ſay, That he did not doubt but to ſee Hereſie rooted out, and the Catholick Religion e're long Eſtabliſht in *England*.

Father *James* an eminent Friar at *Somerſet-Houſe* lately deceaſed, was for ſeveral years Confeſſor to *M. Prance*, ſo that he had with him an intimate Familiarity; About a year and an half ago diſcourſing with him, He told him, That there would ſhortly be on foot a Conſiderable Force to ſettle the *Roman* Catholick Religion in *England*; And that he did not Queſtion but to ſee it Eſtabliſh'd very ſhortly. Upon which *M. Prance* ſaid to him, That he was confident that could never be done without oppoſing his Majeſtie's Authority; and it would be a great ſhame and ſcandal to *Roman* Catholicks, who had valued themſelves ſo much upon their Loyalty in the late Times, if they now ſhould be Guilty of Rebellion againſt their King. Whereunto he replyed, That in the Cauſe of God there was no Conſideration to be had of Princes;

That it was no Sin to be Active to ſuppreſs Hereſie, and eſtabliſh the Catholick Doctrine: For though Obedience was a duty in other Circumſtances, yet in this Caſe the Obedience to the Church was to be prefer'd; For the Civil Magiſtrates muſt ſubmit to the Spiritual, and might lawfully be reſiſted, and That it was the duty of every Prieſt to give any man Abſolution that ſhould be concerned therein, with ſeveral other Seditious and Traiterous Expreſſions. And further *M. Prance* having at ſeveral times fall'n into diſcourſe upon ſome occaſions concerning the nature of the Abſolution given by him and other Prieſts, he the ſaid Father *James* did declare, That ſuch Abſolution was a full and perfect Remiſſion of Sin, and ſuch an Acquittal as rendred any man as Innocent and free from Guilt as the firſt day he was born, from any actual Tranſgreſſion. Then he askt him, for Example. If a perſon ſhould commit a Sin, and confeſs it to him, or any other Prieſt, and receive an Abſolution, and were afterwards tax'd or queſtioned for that Fact, Whether he might with a *ſafe Conſcience, and without Sin ſay he was Innocent.* To which the ſaid Father *James* replied, That if ſuch perſon had received ſuch Abſolution, and performed the Penance impoſed upon him, he may lawfully ſay, He was Innocent: for ſaies he, When God by the mouth of his Prieſt, has abſolved any Perſon, he becomes Innocent in the ſight of God, and being ſo, has no Reaſon to impeach himſelf by owning of the Crime before men, nor caſt a ſcandal on the Church, which to do would be a greater ſin, than to deny a matter which he is no ways obliged to confeſs.

Theſe and ſeveral other like Diſcourſes to the ſame Purport and Effect hath the ſaid Father *James* declared to *M. Prance*, inquiring his Inſtructions for the Direction of his Conſcience; whereby may appear, by what meaſures ſuch men ſteer the Soul of thoſe that ignorantly commit themſelves to their Conduct; and no wonder it will be, that ſome perſons gaſp out their laſt Breath with pronouncing a Lie, and perſiſt to the utmoſt in denial of thoſe Crimes, which both their own Conſciences and the World know them to be guilty of, ſince they are before hand harden'd into a Perſuaſion, That it is not Evil, but rather their Duty in reſpect to the Church's Intereſt ſo to do.

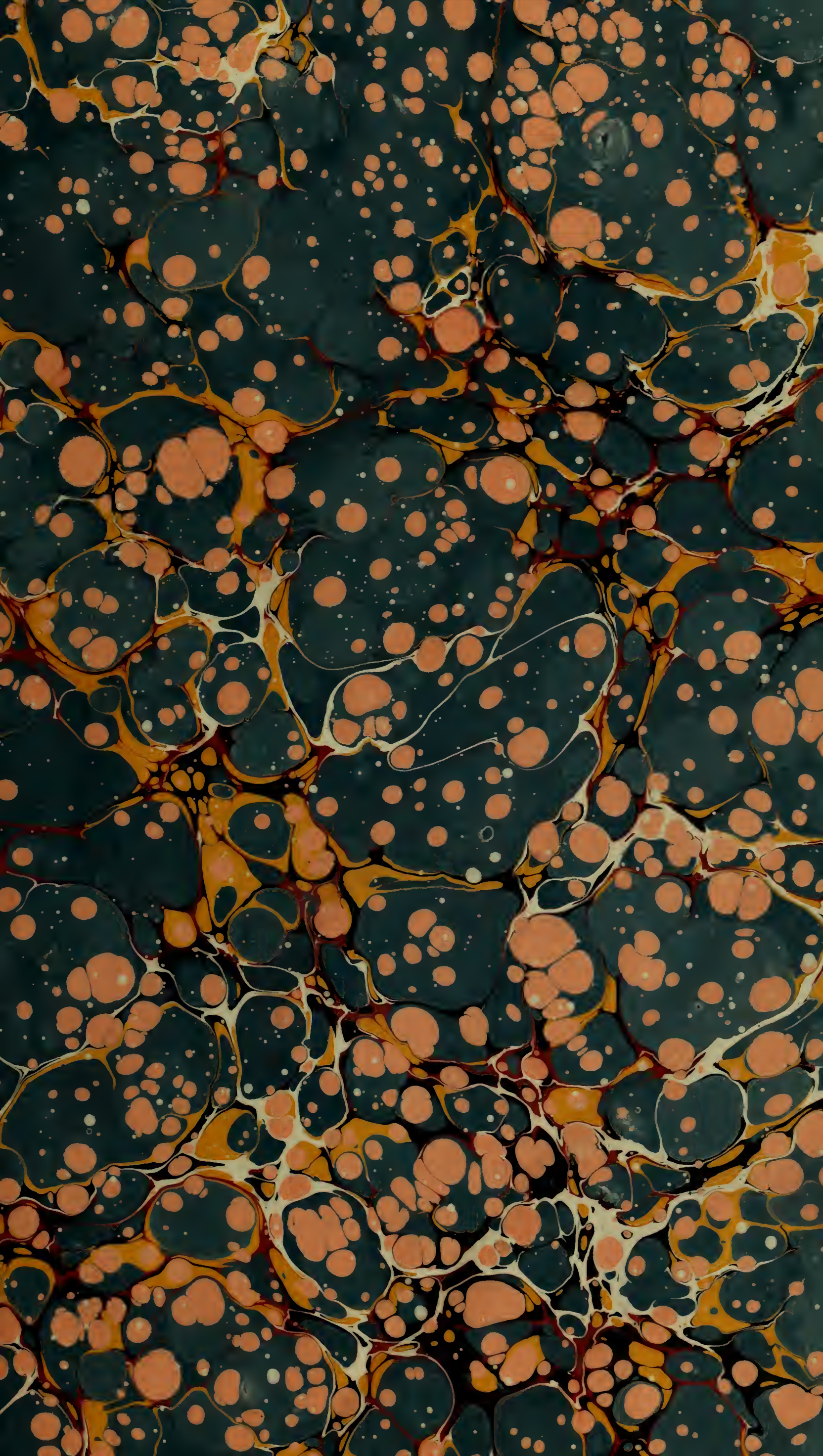
Jeremy Jennings, a Secular Prieſt, lately living at Mr. *Ramſeys* near *Norwich* in *Norfolk*, a little after *Midſummer* laſt, both at Mrs. *Halls*

Halls in *Eagle-Court*, in the *Strand*, and in *M. Prance*'s own Shop, told him, That we ſhould ſhortly ſee better times, and that he did not doubt, but ſuch Roman Catholick Prieſts as he was, ſhould e're long walk publickly in Parſons habits. He alſo hath reconciled ſeveral (as he hath acknowledged) to the Church of *Rome*, and amongſt his Acquaintance was very free of his Beads, and Prayer-Books, and hath been heard to ſay Maſs at Sir *Henry Benifield's*, at *Oxford-Hall* in *Norfolk*; So that by ſuch his aforeſaid Words, there is good reaſon to judge that the ſaid *Jennings* was acquainted with the Plot; nay 'tis reaſonable to believe that there was not a Prieſt in *England*, nay ſcarce any Gentleman of Note, or private Perſon of any Condition of the Roman Cartholick Perſuaſion, but was privy unto the ſaid Plot and Conſpiracy, if not as to the Particular Intrigues, yet at leaſt as to the General Subſtance and Deſigns thereof.

There was one Monſieur *L Hay* (to the beſt of *M. Prance*'s remembrance, that was his right name) who not much above a year ago retaining to a Foreigner, a Perſon of Condition (whoſe Name and Quality is not convenient here to mention) did debauch a young Woman, and to avoid Charge that he ſuſpected might enſue, by her proving with Child, procured a certain Perſon of his Acquaintance to be married unto her; and after this, privately bargained to commit Adultery with her for ſo much a time; which he practiſed ſo long without payment, that at laſt at the rate agreed on, he was Twenty Pounds in her debt, which refuſing or avoiding to pay, the Woman impatient to be ſo ſerved, did repair unto his Lord's houſe, and getting acceſs to him, complain'd of his Prieſts owing her Twenty Pounds; who demanding for what? She after ſome triflings of pretended Modeſty, confeſt it was for the ill uſe of her Body; the Gentleman ſurprized, and ſcarce believing her, askt her when the laſt time was that he had to do with her? She anſwered on *Friday* laſt about Nine of the Clock in the Forenoon; the Gentleman remembring that his Prieſt was that day at Maſs; told her, She was certainly miſtaken; but She perſevering in her Story, he call'd in the Prieſt, demanding if he owed her any Money, which he not being able to deny, nor yet to declare on what good account he became ſo indebted to her, his Maſter could not but conclude him Guilty, and began to upbraid him ſaying, Are not you a moſt profane Villain to lye with this Woman at Nine a Clock and approach to the Altar, and offer to receive Gods Body before Ten, and that without any Abſolu-

tion too? The Prieſt could not deny but that he was Rogue enough, but as to the laſt Particular, aſſured him he had Abſolution. And being inquired how or from whom, after ſome Evaſions he confeſt that another *French* Prieſt and he both lay with her ſucceſſively at that time, and that they mutually gave each other Abſolution; which is a notable Religious method of whoring, and as 'tis likely often practiſ'd by theſe Ghoſtly Fathers. This Relation *M. Prance* doth not aver upon his own knowledge, but knew the ſaid *De la Hay* very well, and was moſt Credibly informed and aſſured of the Truth thereof.

The foregoing Narrative touching the Murther of Sir *Edmund-Bury-Godfrey*, and other Paſſages relating to the horrid *Popiſh* Plot, were written by my directions, and put into Method for the Preſs, the matter being dictated by me, and taken all along from my own Mouth. And having ſince peruſed it all over, I do own the ſame, and atteſt the truth of the ſeveral particulars and things therein contained, as they are there related and ſet forth.

Miles Prance.

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